

Elim Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 5, 2021, 10:45 am
Second Sunday of Advent



Welcome to Elim Lutheran Church

- 1) Accessible restrooms and an AED are located by the exit near the parking lot. An all-gender restroom is in the Sanctuary Balcony.
- 2) Elim belongs to the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). To learn more, visit <https://www.spselca.net/>

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;



dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.
by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

Please stand as you are able

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Reader: Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

All: to prepare the way of your only Son.

**By his coming give to all the people of the world
knowledge of your salvation;**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:1-4

Reader: A reading from the book of Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: LUKE 1:68-79

Reader: ⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**All: ⁶⁹You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Reader: ⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our
enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,
**All: ⁷²to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

Reader: ⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**All: free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

Reader: ⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**All: ⁷⁷to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

Reader: ⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**All: ⁷⁹to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

Reader: A reading from the book of Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: *Mass of the Angels and Saints*. Steven R. Janco. © 1996. GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

ADVENT PRAYER

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

All: Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING: WE ARE WAITING FOR JESUS



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

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SERMON:

Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson - "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

HYMN OF THE DAY: ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounce - es
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
rise to fall no more; oh. let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS. European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Please stand as you are able

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Reader: Loving God, come near to us and to all the earth as we have just commemorated World AIDS Day. Give strength to those who work for a cure, resolve to those who advocate for solutions, tenderness to caregivers and medical professionals, comfort to those who mourn on this day, and your bold spirit of welcome to your church. Bless the thirty-seven million who live with AIDS in our world, and the one million who live with it here in the United States. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Reader: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Reader: Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Reader: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill especially Ben, Lorraine, Carole, Jim, Audrey, Robin, Sue, Renate, Don, Bob, Carolyn, Richard, Nancy, Dave, Gene, Christina, Ruth, Sigrun, Shirley, Irene, Diane, those battling Covid and those we name silently and aloud (brief silence). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Reader: Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Reader: We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Reader: O God, bless all those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and celebrations of all kinds, this week. Fill our hearts with love and acceptance, Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Pastor: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

OFFERTORY

We will not be collecting offerings during service. Offerings may be placed in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary when arriving or leaving. Your Attendance/Contact Tracing Form can also be put in the basket.

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Holy God,

**All: the earth is yours and everything in it,
yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures.
Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine,
and strengthen us to be your body for the world
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(You can hold up the peace sign and look into one another's eyes!)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass of the Angels and Saints*, Steven R. Janco, © 1996, GIA Publications, Inc.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

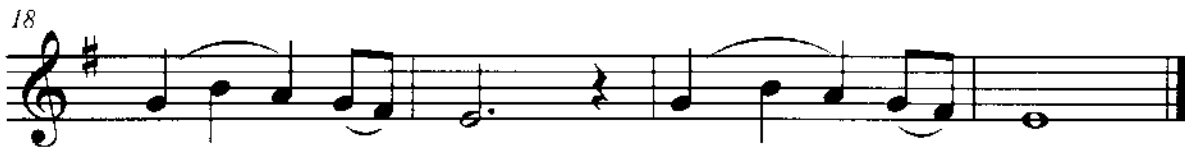
Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God you take a-way the sins of the world; have—
mer cy on us. Have mer - cy on us.
Bread of Life, you take a-way the sins of the world; have—
mer cy on us. Have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of — God, you take a way the sins of the world;



grant — us — peace. Grant — us — peace.

Music: Mass of the Angels and Saints, Steven R. Janco. © 1996 GIA Publications, Inc.

COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table and so we offer to everyone, without exception, to share in Holy Communion. If you would like to receive communion with us today, please come forward and hold out your hands. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please let the server know. When you receive the wine/juice you may discard the cup after drinking. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please leave your hands folded in front of you. If you are a visitor and would feel more comfortable, you are welcome to remain seated.

If you would like to receive communion but cannot come forward, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE



- 1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;
- 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Please stand as you are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: Most High God,

All: **you have come among us at this table.**

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,

sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

BLESSING

Response after blessing: Amen

SENDING HYMN: COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

CHORUS

Words and Music by
Sandra McCracken

E

A



For You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.

For

5

E

A

E



You, O Lord, our souls in still - ness wait.

Tru-ly our hope is in You,

VERSE

E



1. O Lord of life, our on - ly hope, Your ra-diance
2. O joy a - bove all oth - er loves, in You we

15

A

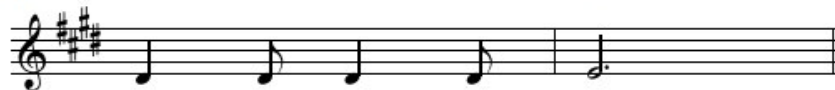
B



shines on all who look to You in the dark. Em - man - u - el
find more than e - nough. We come as we are; O heal and re -

18

E



come, come light our hearts.
-store, come light our hearts.

SENDING

Acolyte: Go in peace, Christ is near.

All: Thanks be to God.

Next Week:

December 12, 2021 Third Sunday of Advent

Theme: Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Read Ahead: Zephaniah 3:14-20/ Isaiah 12:2-6 / Philippians 4:4-7 / Luke 3:7-18



Thank you to the following people
for contributing to today's service:

The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson, Interim Pastor	.....	Officiant
Lauren Haile	.....	Music Director
Robin Merrill	.....	Reader
Open at time of printing	.....	Bulletin Folder
Open at time of printing	.....	Sacristan
Open at time of printing	.....	Bread Baker
Open at time of printing	.....	Coffee Hosts
Cynthia Peter	.....	Acolyte
Open at time of printing	.....	Ushers
Lynn Maxon, Judy Peterson	.....	Communion Servers
Preston Bailey, Vicki Olivas Navarro, Nathan Widger	Musicians
Paul Haile, Andy Hohenner, Kevin Prime	Tech Audio/Video

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