



First Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 7, 2025 | Second Sunday of Advent



At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

GATHERING SONG | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* | ELW #257, v. 3-4

3. O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. **Refrain**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up our hearts **C: Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

MUSICAL MESSAGE | *Come, Emmanuel* - arr. Mary McDonald | Jubilate Choir

FIRST READING | *Romans 15:4-7*

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM | *Psalms 72:1-7*

R: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

C: May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

R: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

C: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

R: May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

C: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

R: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

C: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

R: Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL | Matthew 3:1-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON | Pr. Joe Skogmo

HYMN OF THE DAY | *Rise Up, O Saints of God* | vs. 1-3, 5 ELW #669

1. Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.
3. Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.
5. Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

STATEMENT OF FAITH | *Apostle's Creed*

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN | *In the Bleak Midwinter ELW #294, vs 3*

3. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG | *He Shall Reign Forevermore*

In the bleak midwinter all creation groans,
for a world in darkness, frozen like a stone.
Light is breaking, in a stable for a throne.

***Chorus: And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of Lords.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.***

If I were a wise man, I would travel far.
If I were a shepherd, I would do my part,
but poor as I am, I will give to Him my heart. ***Chorus***

Here within a manger lies the One who made the starry skies,
this Baby born for sacrifice, Christ, the Messiah!
Into our hopes, into our fears, the Savior of the world appears,
the Promise of eternal years. Christ, the Messiah!

He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore. ***Chorus***

He shall reign.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT MINI-CONCERTS

Wednesdays 12 – 12:30pm
Lunch to follow

December 10

Peggy Hammerling, flute
Paul Heisler, piano
Karen Bimberg, piano & organ

December 17

Rich Johnson, saxophone
Emma Duncan, vocal
Karen Bimberg, accompanist

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Thinking of becoming a member of FLC? Our next new member welcome is December 14 & 17. For info on how to join, scan the QR code>>



ANGEL TREE

Grab a tag off of the tree by the office and help someone in our community this Christmas! Deadline to turn in your wrapped gift is December 21.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 17

SWEET SALE

The annual bake sale hosted by the FLC Women will take place on December 14. All treats are welcome and sharing them brings joy to many. Money donated at the sale funds local and area projects.

ALTAR GUILD

Help is needed for the Christmas Eve services and other dates in December. Please consider volunteering! The sign up is in the sacristy.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

Wednesday December 10 & 17 from 11 – 11:50am, just prior to the Advent concerts, in the church library. They will study the book, "The Purpose of Christmas" by Rick Warren

WOMEN OF FLC CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

All FLC women are invited to attend—Bring a guest! Thursday, December 11 @ 11:30am. Hosted by the Ruth & Rebekah Circle and features a program and special Christmas music.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS SALE

Purchase poinsettias in honor of, or in memory of a loved one. Cost: \$13. Deadline to order is December 15. Order forms on the volunteer table or scan the QR Code>>



REBEKAH CIRCLE

December 9 @ 9am. Meet at the Union Central Apartments.

HIGH SCHOOL FREE LUNCH

Thursday, December 18 @ 11:30am at Pizza Ranch.

FLC QUILT SALE

Looking for that perfect gift for a special someone? Consider giving a quilt this Christmas. They are warm, colorful, and made with love!



Prayers for God's People

Ongoing prayers for:

Bill Wegschie, Cole Woltjer,
Doreen Tollefson, Vern, Gretta
Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry Kiono,
Tyler Wilson, Iain, and
Cami Eckhoff.

Prayers of comfort for those who
mourn the loss of a loved one,
including the families of Marge
Prechel & Don Getz.

CREATION CARE NOTE

In March 2025, renewable energy sources provided more electricity to the U.S. grid than fossil fuels for the first time, accounting for 51% of the total electricity generation.



Today's altar flowers are given in honor of everyone celebrating a December birthday! :)

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP DECEMBER 24

3:30 & 5:00pm

7:00pm Candlelight service

CHRISTMAS BREAK

December 24 & 31 | no Oasis
December 21 & 28 |
no Kids Fellowship
December 25 & 26, January 1
& 2 | Church Office Closed

Thanks for worshipping with us!



First
Lutheran
Church

Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo
Associate Pastor: Matthew Rossler
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

GIVE ONLINE

Prefer electronic giving?

Set up an automated method and frequency that works best for you by using the QR code.

Then, if you like, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate.

