

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025



Connecting People to Jesus, Cultivating Meaningful Lives, and Contributing to God's
Kingdom Work, Together



Welcome to Worship!

Hello! We're glad that you're with us today! If this is your first time being in a Lutheran Church and following the Divine service, we follow a traditional liturgy that may be a little different but that's alright. If you feel lost, talk to one of the ushers, they'd be glad to walk alongside you. We're honored that God has brought you here to our midst. We hope that you find peace here.

PREPARATION

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution *Psalm 146:5, 7b–8a; Philippians 1:6*

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

C **The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

Silence for self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

At this time, the congregation will rise and extend the “peace of the Lord” with one another forgiving one another just as our Lord has forgiven us.

WORD

In the service of the Word, God grants us His grace through the reading and preaching of His Word. Wherever His Word is, there He promises to be (Matt 18:20). The words of Holy Scripture are to make [us] wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15).” They do this but not by simply talking about Jesus but giving Jesus to us who crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. The Word of God is the Word of Life.

The Advent wreath is lit with the other candles as the hymn or Introit is sung.

Hymn #331

The Advent of Our King

Kyrie

P Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

P For peace in our hearts, for peace in the church, and for peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

P For mercy to forgive all our sins, for mercy to forgive the sins of one another, and for mercy for all those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

P For grace to rule our unruly wills, for grace to prepare to receive the Lord in His Word and Supper, and for grace to be found faithful when He comes at the end of all time, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

P For hope to preserve us from despair, for hope to bear cheerful witness to Christ before the world, and for hope to sustain us in the hour of trial, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;

the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain gladness and joy,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Verse

Matthew 11:10b

P Alleluia.

C **Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.**

P Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are

cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.,

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

#349 Hark the Glad Sound

Sermon “When God Shows Up” -Pastor Dan Vang

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That the church may proclaim the Good News to the poor, forgiveness to the sinner, and healing to all those afflicted in body or soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That hope may rule our hearts against despair and that we may know joy in the midst of trials, giving thanks that Jesus Christ has come to set us free from sin, death, and all our enemies, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That peace may calm our upset hearts and love direct our words and our actions, giving thanks that we shall be raised from this mortal life to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That the nations and all the people may be well served by good and faithful leaders, that violence be replaced with peace among the nations, and for our good citizenship, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That the home may be a place of blessing and love, that marriages may be kept holy, that the lonely may find friendship, and that we may serve one another in love, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may respect life and gladly serve children and support mothers with child and those whose desire for a child has yet to be fulfilled, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That all those afflicted in body or soul may know healing and peace and that the grieving may be comforted in their loss, [*especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That we who here receive this Holy Sacrament be granted the fullness of what is to come when at last the dead shall be raised and the heavens and earth be made new and all the people of God reunited in the eternal dwelling place of God Most High, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

LSB 192

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

SACRAMENT

Grace upon grace. Having received God's grace through the Word and promises of Jesus, God now serves us grace by feeding us His Son's body and blood which is "true food and true drink (John 6:55)" for the forgiveness of sins. In this portion of the service, we gather with angelic hosts and the saints triumphant where Jesus promises to be: in this meal of bread and wine. "It is bread and wine set within God's Word and bound to it (Luther's Large Catechism)."

We confess that our Lord Jesus Christ has instituted the Lord's Supper to be a Sacrament, a means of grace. In, with, and under the elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus as he has spoken. His body and blood are set aside for his baptized disciples to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you desire the gifts, come and receive what's meant for you.

If you hold to a different confession, are unsure of what this meal is, or are unbaptized, but desire the gifts, please talk with pastor after service about our formation process. In

the meantime, we invite you to come up and cross your arms over your chest at the table in order to receive a blessing.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

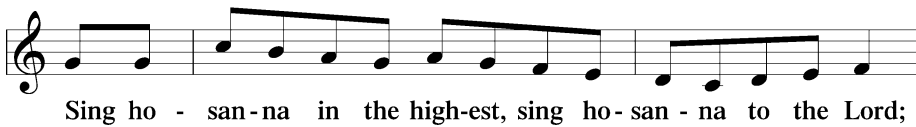
LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Before the dawn of the ages, You sent forth from Your love all that is and declared it good. When, in the rebellion against Your goodness, we chose the path of sin and rebellion, You did not stop loving us but promised the day when that love would be enfleshed in Your own Son, born of the virgin, for the sake of the whole world. Having come in obedience to Your saving will and having offered Himself in our place upon the cross, You have set Your Table among us and called us to feast upon the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

G Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

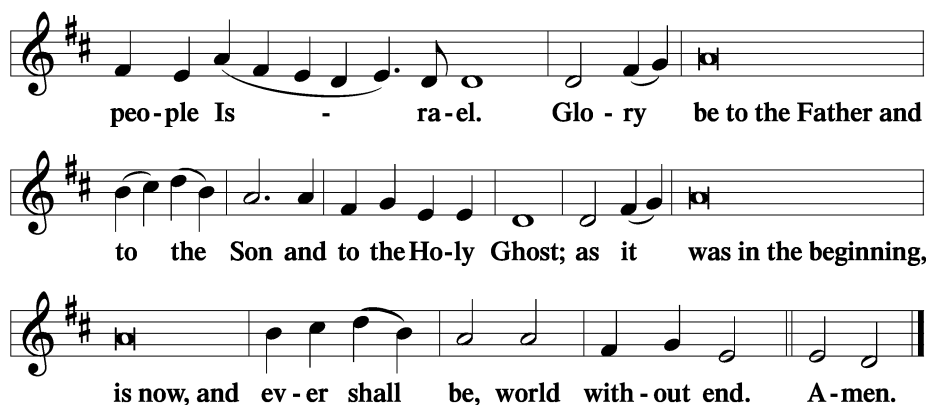
Distribution Hymns

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

G Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
C **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

P Almighty God, You gave Your servant John the Baptist to be the forerunner of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in both his preaching of repentance and his innocent death. Grant that we, who have died and risen with Christ in Holy Baptism, may daily repent of our sins, patiently suffer for the sake of the truth, and fearlessly bear witness to His victory over death; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Hymn #934

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Acknowledgments
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Serving Him this Week

Worship Leader	Pastor Daniel Vang
Elders	Bruce Betts
Musicians	Mount Olive Worship Group
Readers	Bruce Betts, Eric Baer, Norma Ceccardi, Andrew Donnelly, Heather Hoffman, Karla Schroeder, Andrew Burnette
Ushers	Rick and Lana Sullivan
Altar Guild	Karen Fontaine



December 3rd - 6:30pm

December 10th - 6:30pm

December 17th - 6:30pm

Christmas Eve, December 24th - 6:30pm

Christmas Day, December 25th - 10am



Poinsettias Needed

Let's decorate the altar area on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

If you are able to donate or loan a plant, please place it in the Sanctuary Classroom by Sunday, December 21st. Flowers may be taken home after the Christmas Day worship service. Your generosity is appreciated!

CONNECT

Sunday Service with Communion

Please join us for Sunday service at 10am. If you are not able to join us in person, our Sunday Services will be available on YouTube or Facebook. You can access the links on our website at www.mountolivefolsom.com.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School classes for children ages K through 5th grade. Lessons are during the 10am Sunday worship service, located in the back of the Sanctuary directly following the Children's Message. Children will be returned in time to participate in Communion with their families. Families of Preschoolers and younger, feel free to grab a Blessing Activity Bag in the Narthex on your way into service or utilize the Nursery, located behind the musicians. Sunday School teachers & subs still needed, please reach out to Elisse (916)216-8722 or council.educ.molc@gmail.com

Sunday Bible Study

Come and gather with us at 9am to learn more about the Word of God.

The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will be meeting next at noon on December 18th at noon. Please plan to bring your own lunch and join us in some wonderful fellowship and lively conversation! We meet in the classroom behind the sanctuary. All ages are welcome! Call Norma Ceccardi at 530-401-8055 if you have any questions.

CULTIVATE

Share the Love of Jesus with Our Neighbors! Food for the Hungry & Food for the Soul

It's Time for Advent Joy!

Please make sure to pick up an Advent Calendar Garland & Devotion Kit Today!

Thanks to some wonderful volunteers, over 300 of these kits were assembled. Some were distributed to the Twin Lakes Food Bank, some will go to the kids and families at Folsom's Hope, and the rest are for us to enjoy AND to share with neighbors or loved ones or anyone else who could use the message of PEACE, HOPE, and JOY this season offers. Since December 1st is tomorrow, please take extra kits if they are available. Our Sunday Services times and Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service information is included in the kit bag. We ask that you (members) take a kit bag *without scissors* for your own home use. Bags with scissors/service information are for gifts/guests!

Advent Performance

Experience a jazzy musical theatre celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. You are invited to join Sam Williams and Fred Weber as they weave song, tap dance, piano, and storytelling to embody three Advent passages from the book of Isaiah. Playing today at 12 noon right here at Mount Olive!

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies, we would like to invite you to our Tuesday Bible Study at 10am at 110 Dyrell Way in Folsom. We are beginning to study the 2nd part of the Gospel of Matthew. For more information, please call Inge at 916-983-0351.

Bible Study Group

We'll be working through the Epistle to the Colossians for a couple weeks. Feel free also to reach out to Pastor Dan or Elisse Tweet at council.educ.molc@gmail.com or 916-216-8722 for more info.

LWML

The Mt. Olive Lutheran Women's Missionary League wishes to thank the congregation for returning their Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes full of wonderful and thoughtful Christmas gifts for children, we were able to deliver 34 boxes and make a monetary donation to Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Regional Event at Town and Country Lutheran 4049 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at noon. High Tea, please bring family and friends. A special thank you to LWML CNH ladies for their support for our Mighty Mites and District Events. Meet at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on the day of the event at 11:15 and carpool to Town and Country Lutheran Church.

LWML is meeting as needed before the Lunch Bunch on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30 pm. Check with Lana Sullivan or Karen Fontaine-Benedict for our next meeting. We wish you a blessed Christmas and thank you for your support of the LWML missions and grants. In January I will pick up with the LWML history from the 1970s. Thank you, Lana Sullivan

CONTRIBUTE

Online Giving

There are two convenient ways to give online. Either by using the "Joyful Response Giving" on the website or via Paypal. Simply log on to your Paypal Account, select "SEND" and type in Mount Olive Lutheran Church of Folsom California. We always accept checks, but we do have a limit as to how many we can deposit monthly, so if online giving is an option for you, rest assured, it is easy, safe and secure.