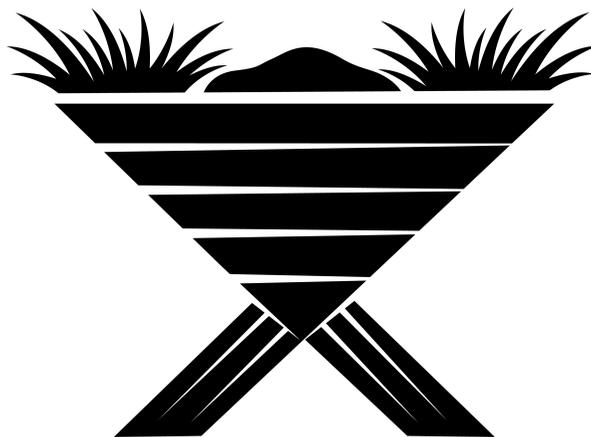


MOUNTAINS TO MANGER

MT. ARARAT



Advent Series
Living Shepherd Lutheran Church
365 W. Grand Ave Laramie, WY
November 27, 2016



WELCOME TO LIVING SHEPHERD!

A FEW NOTES BEFORE WORSHIP

- *We're so glad you joined us for worship today!*
- *Restrooms are located on your right and on your left immediately after you walk through the double doors next to the fire place.*
- *We love having children in our worship service! However, if your child becomes restless, the café (first door on the left past the restrooms) is a great place to regroup and grab a cup of coffee.*
- *You are our guest! If there is something else we can help you with, please let any one of us know!*
- *Finally, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this service folder. Lord's blessings on your worship!*

TODAY'S SERVICE

Today marks the beginning of the Advent Season. ("Advent" is from a Latin word which means, "coming.") During Advent we put ourselves into the shoes of the Old Testament believers and try to imagine what it would be like to wait for the promised Messiah. (That's why during Advent all our readings come from the Old Testament, one from each of the three sections of the OT, just like they did in the synagogue.) This year we'll consider several of the mountains which played a part in God's saving work, traveling from mountains to manger. Today, we focus on Mt. Ararat, the mountain on which Noah's Ark came to rest.

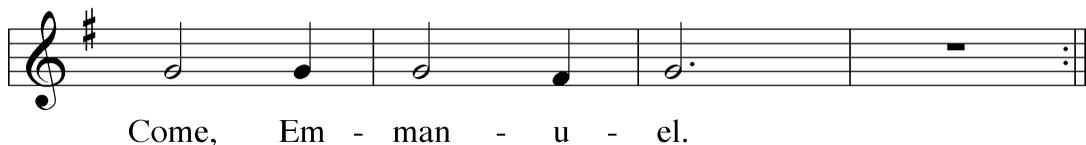
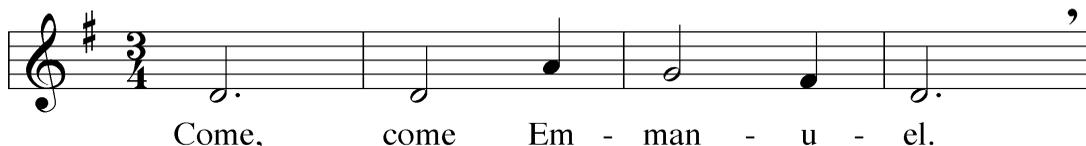
A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord Jesus, in humility You came to this earth, to bring life to us humans. Use Your word to bring me life today. Fill me with appreciation for Your goodness and Your grace as I see Your humility, winning life for me. Bless my worship, O Savior! Amen.

GATHERING FOR ADVENT WORSHIP

*The refrain printed below is sung twice then again
following each phrase sung by the pastor*

Please Stand



- P: God fulfills the promise, so ...
For a shoot from David will ...
Overflowing with love, we ...
May God strengthen our hearts, and ...
For the Son of Man will ...
Oh be watchful, pray always, and ...

INVOCATION

*The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross
remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

P: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)
God calls us to be humble; we struggle to do so. We confess:

C: **Forgive me, Lord, for I have failed to be humble. In pride I have questioned
Your Word and Your will. I deserve punishment. Have mercy on me, O God!**

ABSOLUTION

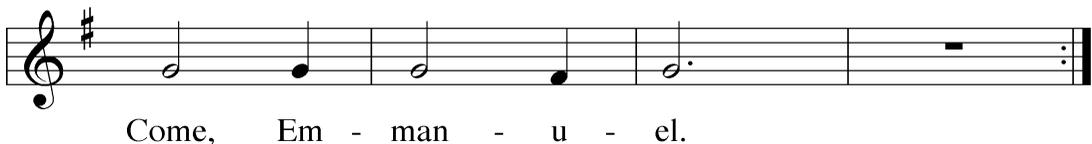
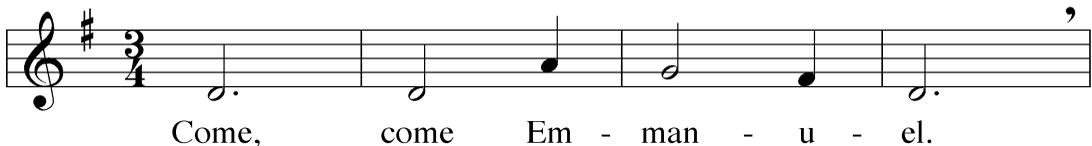
*The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth:
To forgive the sins of penitent sinners." For further information see: John 20:21-23
Also see Luther's Small Catechism, "The Use of the Keys and Confession."*

P: God, our Heavenly Father has been merciful to us. Jesus laid aside His glory,
making Himself "nothing," going to the cross to pay for your sins. Because of
Jesus, your sins are forgiven, you are at peace with God!

C: **Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!**

P: We rejoice in the first coming of our Savior Jesus; we look forward to His coming
again. With all believers we sing,

(The refrain is sung twice by the congregation)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

GOD'S WORD

TORAH — GENESIS 6-9 (selected portions)

God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days. But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down, and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark." Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

KETUVIM — PSALM 89 (printed on the next page)

NEVI'IM — ISAIAH 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

PSALM 89

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

*

*I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;**
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

*I will declare that your love stands firm forever,**
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

*The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,**
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

*O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?**
You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

*Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,**
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

*They rejoice in your name all day long;**
they exult in your righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.

HYMN 9 — JESUS, YOUR CHURCH WITH LONGING EYES

(The children may come forward during verse 4 for the children's devotion)



1 Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex -
2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall And win - try
3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new, Our sins for -
4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land; Let Sa - tan
5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer To wait for



pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised
clouds o'er - cast the sky, Your words with plea - sure
give, our foes sup - press, Our root - ed en - mi -
from his throne be hurled. Let na - tions bow to
your ap - point - ed hour, And fit us by your



light a - rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?
we re - call And know that our re - demp - tion's nigh.
ty sub - due, And crown your gos - pel with suc - cess.
your com - mand; Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.
grace to share The tri - umphs of your con - qu'ring pow'r.

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796–1877, abr., alt.

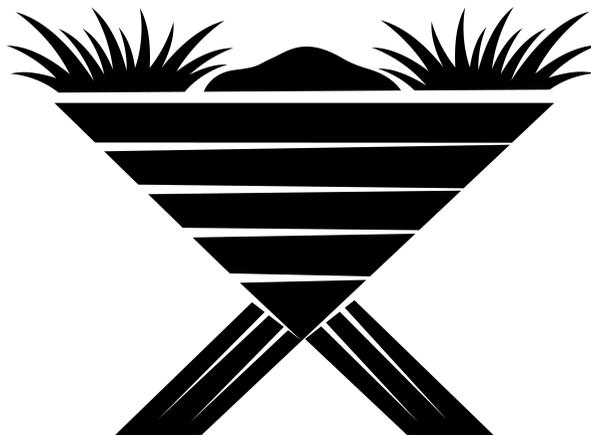
Tune: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT (LM) *Andächtige Haus-Kirche*, Nürnberg, 1676, alt.



GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

GENESIS 6-9 (selected portions)

MOUNTAINS TO MANGER — MT. ARARAT



CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Living in a world where people believe that the universe was formed through chance and accident, what do you believe?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Living in a world where people are confronted with the guilt and punishment of sin, what do you believe Jesus did for you?

C: **I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Living in a world where people are without hope and certainty, what do you believe?

C: **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.**

OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, the people of Living Shepherd
offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks
to him. To those visiting, you are our guests.
While your gifts are welcome, please
do not feel obligated to give.*

WORSHIP REGISTERS

*Thanks for visiting us today! We'd love to have a record of your visit!
Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*We pray on behalf of this church as well as on behalf of
God's people throughout our nation and the world.*

P: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

P: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

P: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

P: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

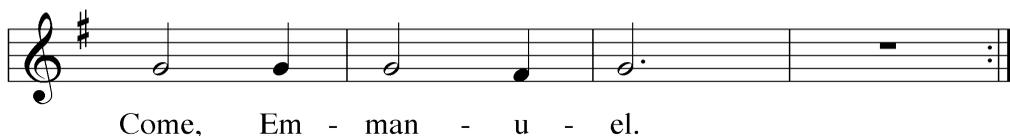
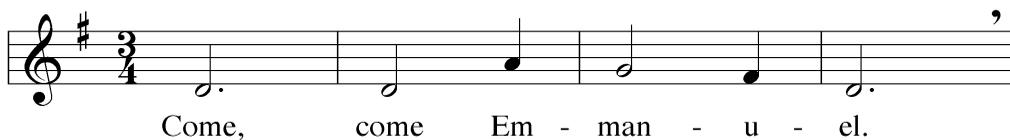
P: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

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

P: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as your Son taught, with the confidence that you will hear us and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare. For it was your only Son who taught us to pray:

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.**

BLESSING



P: The Lord bless you and keep you and come...

C: *(sing refrain)*

P: Make his face shine upon you and come...

C: *(sing refrain)*

P: Cover you with His peace and come...

C: *(refrain will be sung twice)*

CLOSING HYMN

HYMN 23 — OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL
(printed on the next page of your service folder)



23 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
 4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
 draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

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Artwork by Ian Welch — 2010 Graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Living Shepherd Logo by Rachel Westra — Westra Design

WELCOME!

We welcome everyone here today and thank you for joining us for Worship! We hope that you will join us again soon.

TREATS FROM SWEETS BAKERY AND COFFEE!

We hope you can stick around after worship to join us for some treats from Sweets Bakery and some freshly brewed coffee!

BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bible Study and Sunday School continue after worship today! Plan on these opportunities to study God's Word lasting 20-30 minutes. We hope you can join us!



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Pastor's Phone: (307) 399-9288

Call or Text Anytime!!

