

# *SING FOR JOY!*



Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Living Shepherd Lutheran Church  
365 W. Grand Ave Laramie, WY  
December 23, 2018



# 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

*"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you." (Isaiah 12:4-6)*  
*How else would God's people respond to his saving Grace!? How else would the woman chosen to bear the Christ respond!? Today we join Mary in songs of joy because the Holy One of Israel is worthy of our praise!*

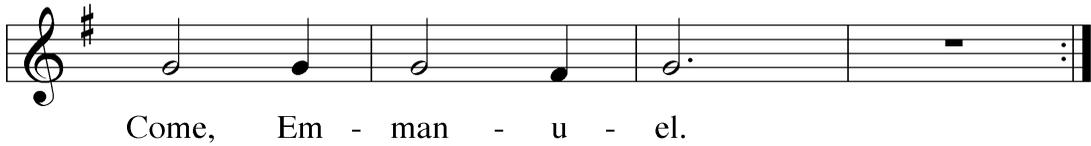
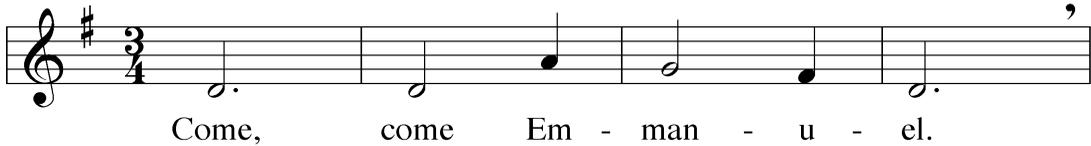
## A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*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: May the ruler of Israel ...  
He will shepherd his flock and ...  
Let us turn to the Lord and ...  
By the will of God he has ...  
Trust the word of the Lord and ...  
Sing for joy for the Lord has ...

## 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

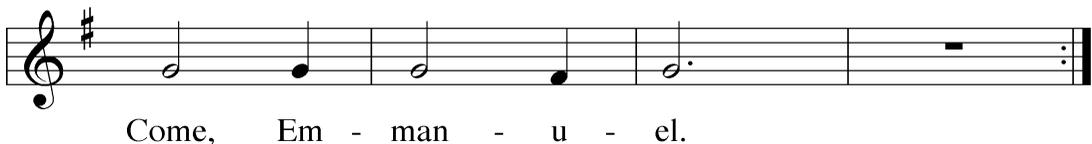
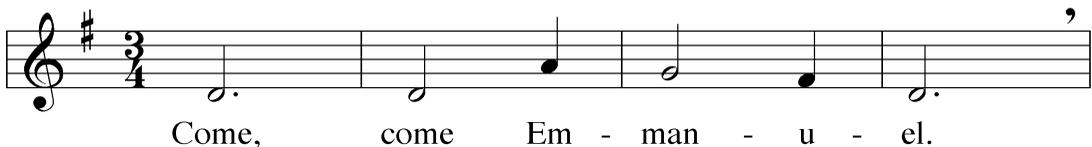
*The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth:  
To forgive the sins of penitent sinners." For further information see: John 20:21-23  
Also see Luther's Small Catechism, "The Use of the Keys and Confession."*

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 com-  
ing again. With all believers we sing,

*(The refrain is sung twice by the congregation)*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

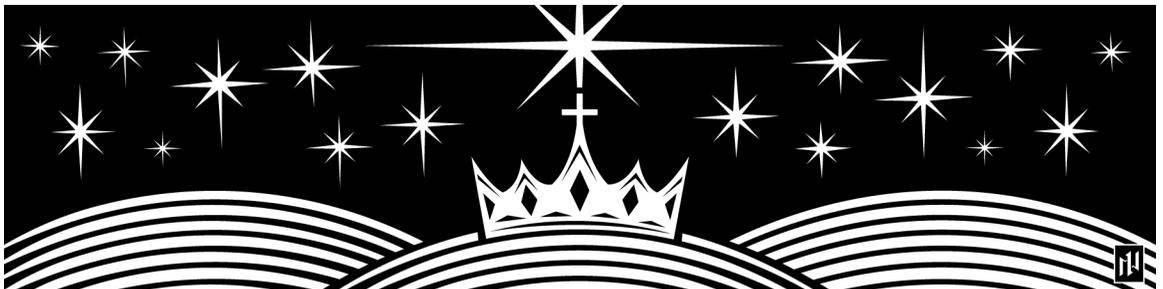
- P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.** (spoken)

## GOD'S WORD

### *PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7*

*<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*PSALM 92 (printed on the next page of your worship folder)*



# PSALM 92

## *Refrain*



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

## *Psalm tone*



How great are your works, O LORD,\*  
how profound your thoughts!

The senseless man does not know,\*  
fools do not understand,

that though the wicked spring up like grass\*  
and all evildoers flourish,

they will be forever destroyed.\*  
But you, O LORD, are exalted forever.

## *Refrain*

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,\*  
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

They will still bear fruit in old age,\*  
they will stay fresh and green,

proclaiming, “The LORD is upright;\*  
he is my rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”

**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*

LUKE 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”

My Soul  
Glorifies  
The Lord

# 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 274 — MY SOUL NOW MAGNIFIES THE LORD*

*(The children may come forward during verse 5 for the children's devotion)*

- 1 My soul now magnifies the Lord; My spirit shall in God rejoice.  
My humble state he did regard, Exalting me by gracious choice.*
- 2 Henceforth shall people call me blest, For great things he has done for me.  
The mighty God is now my guest; The Holy One has set me free.*
- 3 His mercy is on all who fear, Who trust in him from age to age.  
His arm of strength to all is near; The proud he scatters, though they rage.*
- 4 He brings down rulers from their seat And raises those of low degree.  
He fills the hungry souls with meat; The rich depart in poverty.*
- 5 He helped his servant Israel, Rememb'ring his eternal grace,  
As from of old he did foretell To Abraham and all his race.*
- 6 So praise with me the Holy One, Who comes in all humility.  
To our Redeemer, God's own Son, Be glory in eternity!*

# GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*ISAIAH 12:1-6*

*SING FOR JOY!*

*In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. <sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."*

*<sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."*



# 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.**

## 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!*

## 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. You can also support our ministry by clicking the "give" button at [www.LivingShepherd.com](http://www.LivingShepherd.com)*

# 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.

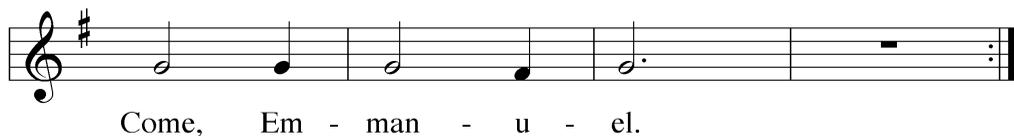
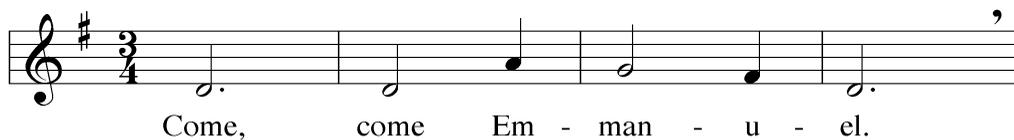
C: **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

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 245 — SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD*  
*(printed on the next page of your service folder)*

245

Sing a New Song to the Lord



(Children) 1 Sing a new song to the Lord, He to whom  
 (All) 2 Now to the ends of the earth, See, his sal -  
 (All) 3 Sing a new song and re - joice! Pub - lish his  
 (All) 4 Join with the hills and the sea Thun - ders of



won - ders be - long! Re - joice in his  
 va - tion is shown, And still he re -  
 prais - es a - broad! Let voic - es in  
 praise to pro - long! In judg - ment and



tri - umph and tell of his pow'r! Oh,  
 mem - bers his mer - cy and truth, Un -  
 cho - rus, with trum - pet and horn, Re -  
 jus - tice he comes to the earth. Oh,



sing to the Lord a new song!  
 chang - ing in love to his own.  
 sound for the joy of the Lord!  
 sing to the Lord a new song!

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Tune: CANTATE DOMINO (77 11 8) David G. Wilson, b. 1940. © 1973 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*My Soul  
Glorifies  
The Lord*

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*Artwork by Ian Welch — 2010 Graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary*

## 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

We'll start a new Bible study shortly after the New Year. More info to come!

## WORSHIP SET UP

Thanks to those who helped set up for worship today! Next week, the Smith family and Campus Ministry are on for set up. Set up starts at 8:30 AM.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We will have a Children's Christmas Eve worship service at 4 PM on Christmas Eve. Following the service there will be a potluck with ham provided (bring a ham to share). Christmas Eve worship will be at 6 PM.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

We will have Christmas worship service at 10 AM on Christmas morning.

Pastor Pete Zaferos

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Pastor's Phone: (307) 399-9288

*Call or Text Anytime!!*

