

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

The Reverend David C. Zimmer – Pastor

A Traditional, Liturgical, Biblical congregation in the Chicago region committed to ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.

ABOUT THE ADVENT SEASON Advent means “coming”. The season of Advent marks the beginning of another year in the life of our Lord, the Church Year. The beginning of a new Church Year, like its end, reminds us that we stand that much closer to the day when Christ will return in glory to judge the living and the dead. At the same time, we ready ourselves during this season to rejoice anew on the anniversary of His birth. Such is the tension of the Christian life, for we live in “now, not yet” time. We are, at one and the same time, ever ready to go home to glory, yet ever ready to invest ourselves in the tasks of today, with an eye on tomorrow. We prepare our earthly homes and families for yet another Christmas even as we look forward to our final rest in our heavenly home with “angels, archangels and all the company of heaven.”

Advent is a time to be preparing, not just preparing to observe another Christmas but rather to be preparing for our Lord’s triumphant return. It is a time for self examination and repentance, a time for vigilant waiting and watching for the One whose second coming will be like a thief in the night.

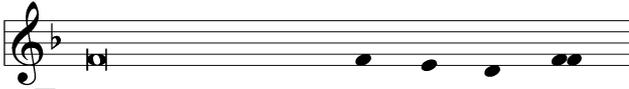
Advent is also a time of hope. The color blue on our altar and Advent wreath is symbolic of the hope we Christians have because Christ has already come as our Savior. We are not afraid of His return but rather look forward to it and even pray for it as at the end of Revelation, “Amen, Come Lord Jesus.” Why? Because through His life, death and resurrection Jesus has restored the peace between man and God which we once enjoyed in the Garden of Eden. Through that peace, Christians have hope while awaiting Christ’s second coming, for it is then that He will receive them into their eternal home.

✠ **Please return this service folder to an usher as you leave this evening. We would like to use them again in the future.** ✠

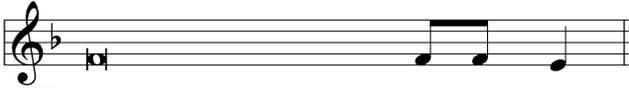
✠ Evening Prayer ✠

✠ STAND ✠

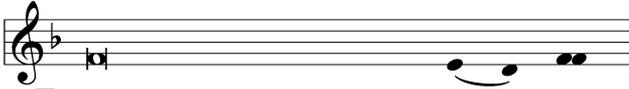
✠ SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠



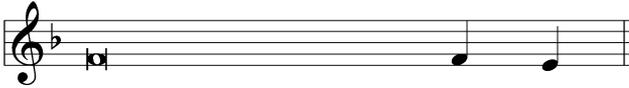
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



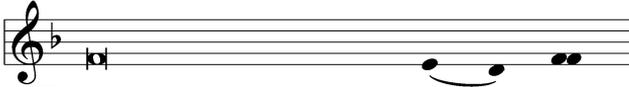
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.



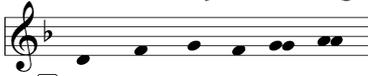
L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.



PHOS HILARON ∞ Hymn of Light



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:



the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

P Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ PSALMODY ✠

PSALM 141

Psalm 141:1-4, 8

C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice
when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

II Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

I Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;
let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.

II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.
Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in
the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

P Let us pray.

Silence for individual prayer.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

OFFICE HYMN

See Insert

✠ READINGS ✠

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

See Insert

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**



Sermon

✠ CANTICLE ✠

✠ STAND ✠

MAGNIFICAT *∞* Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

Refrain

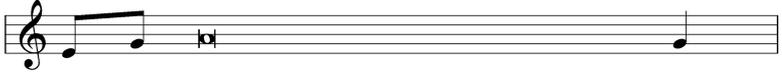
C My soul mag-ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
 joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni - fies the
 Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



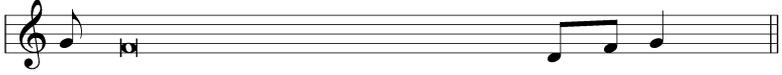
1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son



1 the lowliness of His hand - maiden.
 2 and holy is His name;
 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;

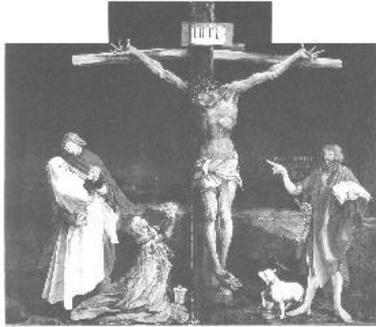


1 For be - hold, from this day
 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



1 all generations will call me blessèd.
 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
 5 is now, and will be forever. A - men. *Refrain*

✠ SIT ✠



Offering

✠ STAND ✠

✠ PRAYER ✠

LITANY

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

L For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Alleluia.**

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

BENEDICAMUS

Psalm 103:1



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



C A - men.

Hymn to Depart

See Insert



✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠

Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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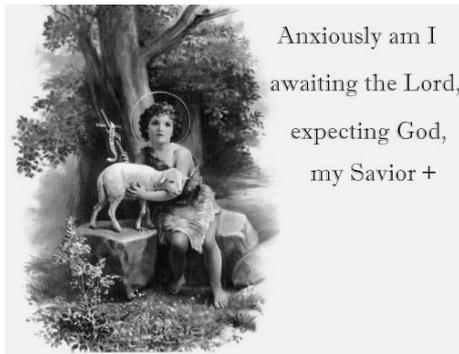
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The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:5-9

Exalt [works] as you will; but do not venture to tell me that they are my way, my life, my light. For this they are not. Christ is the only Lamb that bears the sins of the world (John 1:29). He alone is the true Light. I am very ready to praise John the Baptist's arduous and holy life, his garment of camel's hair, his drinking of water, and his eating of locusts; but I refuse to say that this is the way that leads to heaven. He himself does not bear witness to his life of privation and holiness; but he directs me to the Lord, saying (John 1:29): "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," that is, who sacrificed Himself for your sin and made satisfaction for it. I am determined to hold to this.

Therefore, the holy evangelist John says: The Word was "the true Light." As though he wished to say: "If you do not want to go astray but are intent on finding the correct and



Anxiously am I
awaiting the Lord,
expecting God,
my Savior +

certain way to heaven without fail, then set your course for this one true Light, which radiates all the brightness and glow necessary for your salvation. Otherwise we remain in darkness and in the shadow of death.

✠ Martin Luther ✠