

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 - 10:00 am

**Pastor Peter Johnson
Lakeside Community Lutheran Church
Webster, WI**

GATHERING

**Denotes stand as you are able*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✙ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

We gather together to let God's good news reorient our lives.
O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us.
O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment.
O Emmanuel, **Surprise us by your coming.**

***GATHERING HYMN** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257 (v5-6)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Advent Hymn

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
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.
- ³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
- ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No 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.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146: 5-10

- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- ⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
- ⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who
hunger.
The Lord sets the captive free.
- ⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who
are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**
- ⁹ The Lord cares for the stranger;
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of
the wicked.
- ¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

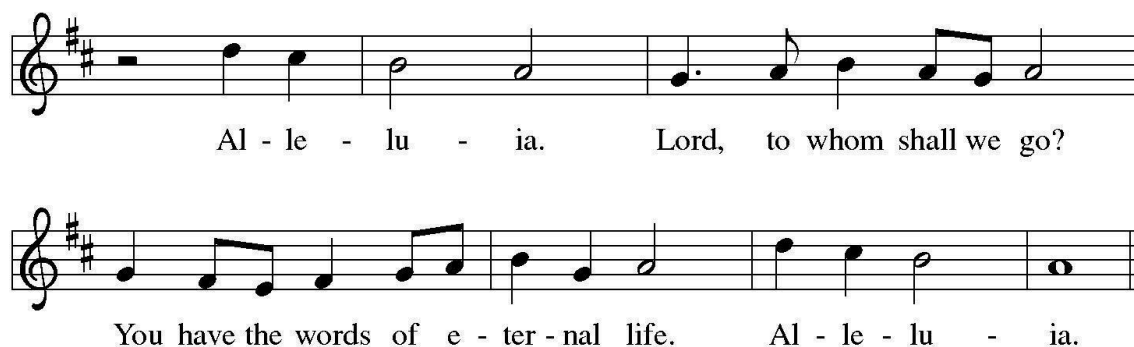
SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia



HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11: 2-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Glory to you, O Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

Pastor Peter Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

*APOSTLES CREED

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.

*THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

Response:
God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in
your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

MEAL

THANKSGIVING FOR OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let The Vineyards

ELW 182

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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;**

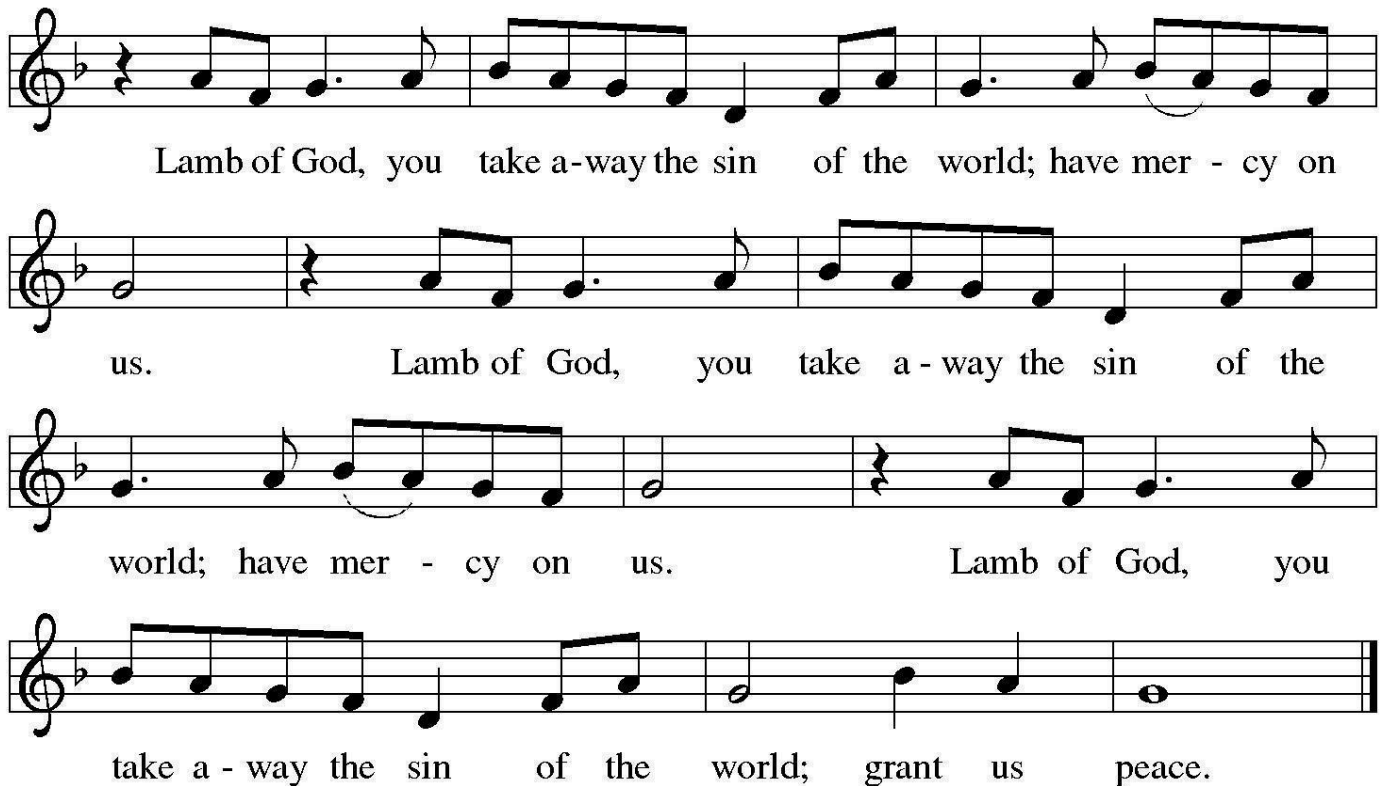
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The table is set. The meal is prepared.
Come, ALL are welcome to the feast!

COMMUNION

Lamb of God



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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

ELW 414

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

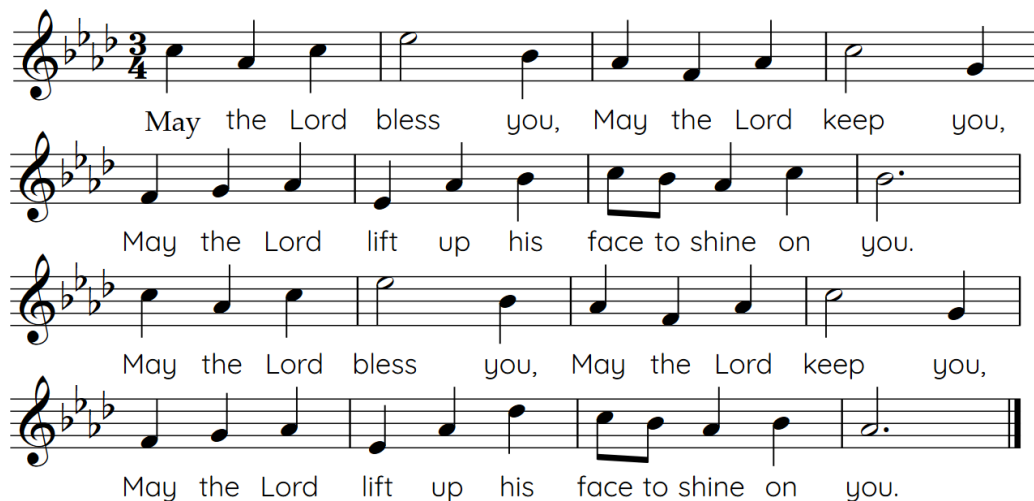
God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN **I Want to Walk As A Child of God** **ELW 815**

BENEDICTION SONG **May the Lord Bless You**



Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Welcome to Lakeside! We extend a warm welcome to those who have come to share our worship service. Visitors, please fill out the blue Guest Connection Card and leave it in the offering plate. Let this be your gift to us! We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship following the service in the fellowship hall.

December Mission of the Month will support Yellow Lake Food Distribution. The Endowment Committee will match up to \$3,000 of donations received. Let's support this much needed ministry in our community and fully fund the food distribution for the month of December.

Prayer Concerns: Elaine Davis, Marilyne Gallman, Anne Gelein, Mary & Tom Heenan, Hitomi Henderson, Jolyne Peterson, Diane Roberts, Faith Snyder, Mark Snyder, Dorothy VanPykeren and Danny Wheeler. Those fighting addictions; people in crisis; deployed military and families; leaders, children, and areas of conflict throughout the world.

Thank you to today's participants: Pastor Peter Johnson; Organist Judi Wilson; Our Lakeside Choir; Producer Marshall Hoff; Counters and Shepherding Conveners Pat & Daryl Sulander; Shepherds Carol Aakhus, Dotty & Ken Busby, Steve & Marilyne Gallman, Sue Oslund, Marcia Proehl, Doug & Dawn Straub, and Vicki Struve.

Please take note of Lakeside's new phone number: (715) 624-4664.

Newsletter Articles can be emailed to julieslclc@gmail.com. The deadline for January's newsletter is Saturday, December 20th.

Watch your email for cancellation of church services due to inclement weather. Notifications will be sent the Saturday before by 6PM.

This Week at Lakeside:

Monday, Dec. 15	11:30 am - ADRC*
	6 pm - Yoga
Tuesday, Dec. 16	9 am - Mission Quilters
	11 am - Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 am - ADRC*
	7 pm - AA/Alanon
Wednesday, Dec. 17	8 am - Yellow Lake Food Distribution
	9 am -Yoga
	9:30 am - Bible Study
Thursday, Dec. 18	8 am - Yellow Lake Food Distribution
	Fellowship at JoMama's
	8 am - Men's Breakfast
	9 am - Women's Coffee
	11:30 am - ADRC*
Friday, Dec. 19	11:30 am - ADRC*
Saturday, Dec. 20	Newsletter Articles Due
Sunday, Dec 21	9:00 am - Sunday School
	9:15 am - Choir Rehearsal
	10 am - Worship with Holy Communion
<i>*call for reservations:</i>	715-349-2154



Library News: With the cooler weather making you want to snuggle in, it's a perfect time to take a book from our library. Here are a few for the month of December:

- **Lynn Austin's book "A Women's Place"**. On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was bombed. This shows how life changed for four very different women after the men went off to war. Their beliefs are challenged and they struggle towards new understanding of what love and sacrifice truly means.

With the Christmas theme we have:

- **"Operation Christmas Child"**. The stories behind Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes for Kids. This project brings great joy to millions of children around the world.
- **Guidepost "Christmas Stories of Faith"**. Guidepost has always had uplifting inspirational stories to reinforce your faith.

There are many other fiction/nonfiction, etc. on our shelves so take some time to see what we have and sign out a book to enjoy. Happy reading!

Wishing everyone a Very Blessed Christmas,
Library committee,
Bonnie, Dawn, Jill

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