

Lord *of Life* Lutheran Church

119 West Wise Road + Schaumburg, IL
847-895-8877 + WWW.LORD-OF-LIFE.ORG



Blue Christmas ~ The Longest Night Evening Prayer
December 20, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word in worship in-person and online. We encourage you to follow along in this document. If you are joining us online, please send the office an email at LOLOffice@lord-of-life.org so we know of your participation.

May the Lord bless our worship this day.

As We Offer

We offer our contributions in-person or online at [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) through this link https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1438924 or with your phone by taking a picture of this QR Code.



✝ LEADING WORSHIP TODAY ✝

Pastor Rebekah Weant, Presiding Minister

Diane Bele, Director of Music

Stephanie Yager & Volunteer, Ushers

Readers: Marsha Einhorn, Karen Baron,

Rob Davies, Linda Weant

+ Gathering +

INTRODUCTION

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or likes celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service provides a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

GATHERING MUSIC ~ O Come, O Come Immanuel

Rex Koury

WELCOME

SILENT MEDITATION



A bell tolls to signal the beginning of silence for meditation. When the bell tolls a second time, we stand.

We stand.

PROCESSION ~ Wait for the Lord

ELW 262

Sung repeatedly until the cross is in place.



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

GATHERING SONG ~ *Wait for the Lord*

ELW 262

Sung repeatedly while worshipers come forward to receive a flameless candle.



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

GREETING

P From the one who was, who is, and who is to come, Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF LIGHT ~ *Christ Be Our Light*

ELW 715

During the hymn, worshipers may turn candles on by twisting the bottom.



1	Long - ing	for	light,	we	wait	in	dark - ness.	Long - ing	for
2	Long - ing	for	peace,	our	world	is	trou - bled.	Long - ing	for
3	Long - ing	for	food,	man - y	are	hun - gry.	Long - ing	for	
4	Long - ing	for	shel - ter,	man - y	are	home - less.	Long - ing	for	
5	Man - y	the	gifts,	man - y	the	peo - ple,	man - y	the	



truth,	we	turn	to	you.	Make	us	your	own,
hope,	man - y	de -	spair.	Your	word	a -	lone	
wa - ter,	man - y	still	thirst.	Make	us	your	bread,	
warmth,	man - y	are	cold.	Make	us	your	build - ing,	
hearts that	yearn	to	be - long.	Let	us	be	ser - vants	



your ho - ly	peo - ple,	light	for	the	world	to	see.
has pow'r to	save us.	Make	us	your	liv - ing	voice.	
bro - ken	for oth - ers,	shared	un - til	all	are	fed.	
shel - ter - ing	oth - ers,	walls	made	of	liv - ing	stone.	
to one an - oth - er,		signs	of	your	king - dom	come.	

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT ~ *Songs of Thankfulness & Praise* ELW 310



- 1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
- 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
- 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



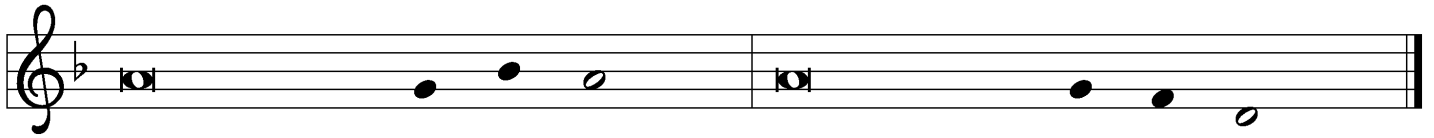
branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

We sit.

PSALM 27



- A** ¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be
afraid?
- C** ²When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.
- A** ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.
- C** ⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of
my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek
God | in the temple.
- A** ⁵For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me
high up- | on a rock.
- C** ⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who
surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices
of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD.
- A** ⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;
have mercy on me and | answer me.
- C** ⁸My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.

A ⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant
in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not,
O God of | my salvation.

C ¹⁰Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,
the LORD will | take me in.

A ¹¹Teach me your | way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

C ¹²Subject me not to the will | of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing
violence.

A ¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD
in the land | of the living!

C ¹⁴Wait for the LORD | and be strong.
Take heart and wait | for the LORD!

PRAYER

P Let us pray. Lord God, our light and our salvation, grant that your servants who seek your face in times of trouble may see your goodness in the land of the living, and that we may be set safely on the rock of our faith, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.



+ Word +

We sit.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

A A reading from Isaiah.

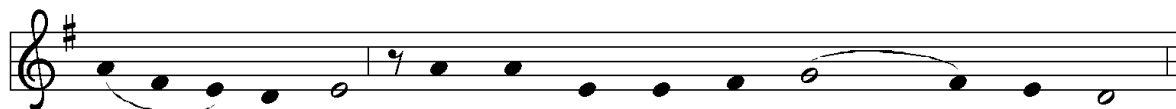
² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A The word of the Lord.

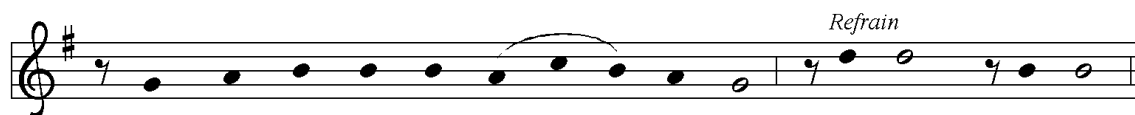
C Thanks be to God.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

SECOND READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

A A reading from Isaiah.

⁶Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All

people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN ~ *Comfort, Comfort Now my People*

ELW 256



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val-leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

THIRD READING:

Matthew 11:28-30

A A reading from Matthew.

²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

A The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

HYMN ~ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257 v. 5-7

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

FOURTH READING:

John 1:1-5; 14

A A reading from John, the 1st chapter

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the

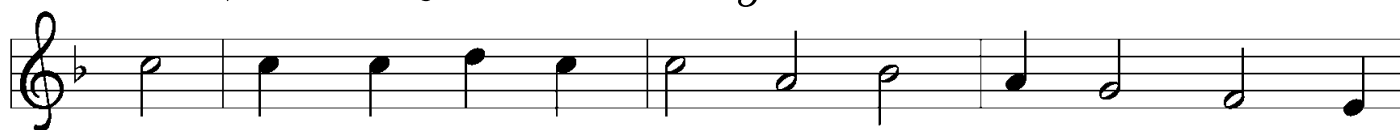
darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN ~ *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ELW 272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

REFLECTION

We stand.

GOSPEL CANTICLE ~ *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* ELW 251



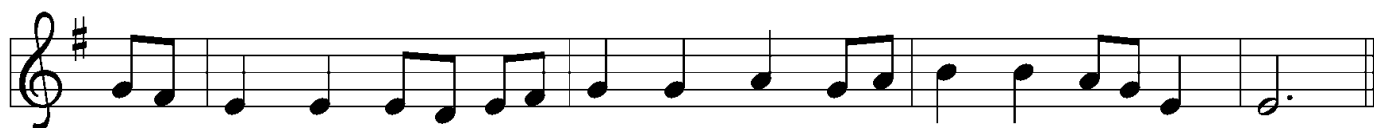
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

PRAYER STATIONS

 *As the bell tolls, worshipers may:*

- ❖ *come forward for prayer with laying on of hands and anointing offered by the pastor;*
- ❖ *come forward to write a prayer concern to place it in designated area;*
- ❖ *kneel, sit, or stand for individual prayer;*



SONGS ~ *Come and Fill our Hearts*

ELW 528

Sung meditatively and repeatedly

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

ELW 751

Sung meditatively and repeatedly.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Deep Peace


ACS


Sung meditatively and repeatedly.

Deep peace of the run - ning waves, deep peace of the
flow - ing air, deep peace of the shin - ing stars to
you, deep peace of the qui - et earth. earth.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has two staves (treble and bass clef). The second system also has two staves. The third system has two staves and includes a repeat sign with a first ending bracket labeled 'To repeat' and a second ending bracket labeled 'Last time'. The lyrics are written below the staves.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

 *A bell tolls to signal time for contemplative prayer...*
Silence is observed...

 *...A second bell tolls to signal that we stand for the Lord's Prayer.*

We stand.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach 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.

LIGHTING HYMN ~ *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

ELW 282



- 1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
- 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C Amen.

SENDING MUSIC ~ *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* David Cherwien

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