



**First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021**

10:30am Livestream

St. Luke Lutheran Church

4595 SW California St.
Portland, OR 97219
(503) 246-2325

Gathering

Prelude: "A Hymn for the Nation" by Gilbert Martin Tom Skyler, organ
Welcome (Announcements) Pastor Beth Brashear

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait,
**in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
† your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: **“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Red Hymnal no. **254**

Apostolic Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Blessing of the Candle of Hope

Mary Peirce and Family

“Light the Candle” by Maureen Griepentrog

Light the candle as a symbol of the Light that leads the way.

For this candle is a symbol of the hope that’s ours today.

As we strike the match and light the wick, come, Spirit, shine bright.

Grant that all may see from the darkness Your gift, Your truth, Your light.

O God of our Hope, come! As we begin this Advent journey, restore us to faithfulness, and shepherd us through these weeks. Soften us and open us to trust in your love, your goodness, your guiding presence. May we take in your word and bring it to life, giving hope to the hopeless through our words and actions. We ask this through Christ, our Savior and our hope. Amen

Anthem:

“A Story for all People” by Dori Erwin Collins

Stephanie Schoap, solo
Leslie Gott, piano

The Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Tammy Witcosky , reader

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Ken Peirce , reader

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for

all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

“He Came Down”

Red Hymnal no. **253**

He came down that we may have hope, He came down that we may have hope.

He came down that we may have hope, Hallelujah forevermore.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

Pastor Beth Brashear

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Pastor Beth Brashear

Sermon Hymn:

“Blessed be the God of Israel”

Red Hymnal no. **250**

Prayers of the Church

Prayer Leader: Ron Witcosky

Response: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Prayer Chorus:

“Emmanuel by Bob McGee

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.**

Apostle’s 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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.

Holy Communion

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: **blessed are you.**

For the birth of creation: **blessed are you.**

In the darkness and in the light: **blessed are you.**

For your promise to your people: **blessed are you.**

In the prophets’ hopes and dreams: **blessed are you**

For Mary’s openness to your will: **blessed are you.**

For your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

O God, today you have called us together to be the church. Unite us now at your table, and in one loaf and this cup of blessing, make us one in Christ Jesus.

Communion Hymns:

"Lamb of God"

Red Hymnal p. 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace, grant us peace.

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 1-6)

Red Hymnal no. 257

Musical Reflection

Tom Skyler, organ

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray together, **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sending

Connect and Serve

Connect: Connect through books! Take a purple "Book Bag" from the stand in the narthex, and leave the library card. Enjoy your reads and return them when you're done.

Connect: Midweek Advent series “Preparing to Receive the Best Gift Ever” by Sheri Brown. Join us on Zoom, starting this Wednesday at 7pm.

Connect: Next Sunday, December 5 is our **Holiday Neighborhood Bazaar!** Join us from 3-5pm, then for Holden Evening Prayer at 5:15pm.

Serve: Bring non-perishable food with you to the Holiday Neighborhood Bazaar next Sunday: food will go to Neighborhood House.

Serve: The Giving Tree is up! Provide a new, wrapped, labeled gift for a family in need. Sign up via our Sign-up Genius, or contact Julie Gaudette, and return the gift to St. Luke by December 19. For the link and for more information, check out our Weekly Update, which is on our website under “Evolving Ministries.”

Benediction

Sending Song:

“People, Look East”

Red Hymnal no. **248 (vs 1)**

Dismissal: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude:

“Now Thank We All Our God” arr. J.S. Bach

Tom Skyler, organ

Flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God.

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