

# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
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## The Second Sunday in Advent

8 December A✠D 2024

*Divine Service, Setting III*



## ✝ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✝

Today we observe the Second Sunday in Advent. On this day, we consider the coming of Christ on the Last Day and what that will mean for His people. The Scriptures declare that Jesus first came in lowliness, born of a virgin, to be our Savior. At His second coming, He shall return in the fullness of His divine power and glory to judge the living and the dead. The Church waits eagerly for that day, knowing that it will be the Day of our ultimate redemption, when we and all believers in Christ shall inherit His kingdom forevermore.

If you are a VISITOR here, we'd like to offer you our warmest welcome! We pray that your experience among us is blessed, and that you depart filled with God's peace and life.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter,  
as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth,  
I humbly pray that You would open my heart  
to the preaching of Your Word so that I may  
repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my  
only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness.  
Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.



# Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.



*Stand*

## Hymn of Invocation: 873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by Thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a-rise; Tri-umph o'er the shades of night.  
Joy-less is the day's re-turn Till Thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine, Scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.  
Till they in - ward light im-part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
More and more Thy - self dis-play, Shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text and tune: Public domain



# Service of the Word

## Introit (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b; 30:30, 29*

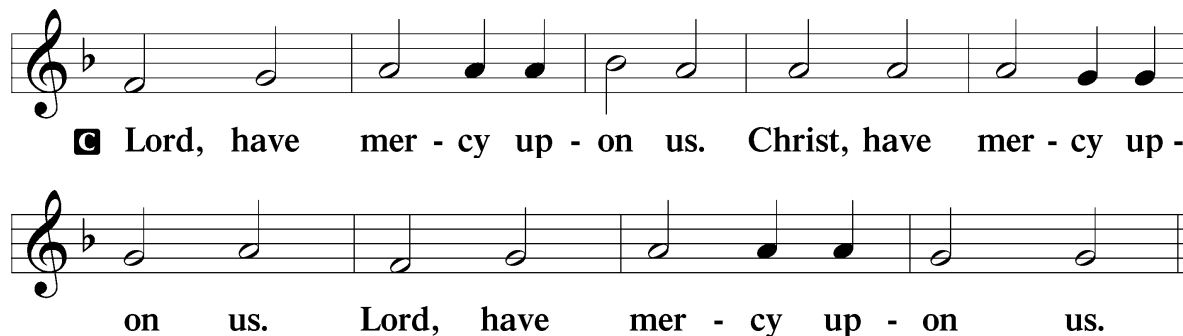
- P** Say to the daughter of Zion,  
“Behold, your salvation comes.”
- C** **The LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard,  
and you shall have gladness of heart.**
- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- C** **Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- P** Turn again, O God of hosts!  
Look down from heaven, and see.
- C** **But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,  
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!**

**All: 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.**

- P** Say to the daughter of Zion,  
“Behold, your salvation comes.”
- C** **The LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard,  
and you shall have gladness of heart.**

## Kyrie

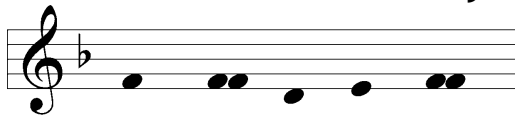
*Mark 10:47*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Malachi 4:1–6*

<sup>1</sup> “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup>But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup>And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>4</sup> “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup> “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

*Psalms 50:2–3a, 5*

**P** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes; he does not keep silence;

**C** “Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”



## Epistle

*Romans 15:4–13*

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup>And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Alleluia**



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



## Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25–36

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.



**G** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>25</sup>[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

<sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place.

<sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup>For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.



## Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*



## Hymn of the Day: 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him  
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion  
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;  
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;  
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,  
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:  
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.  
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly  
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.  
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text and tune: Public domain

### Sermon

### Offering

*During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located in your pew.*



*Stand*  
**Offertory**

*Psalm 51:10–12*



♩ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Stand*  
**Prayer of the Church**

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the Word of God, sent forth into the world, that by it many who do not know Christ may be brought to faith, be comforted and strengthened with us, and sing the Lord's eternal praises; and also for God's blessing upon the work of all Christian congregations and all missionaries, especially Joe Boway, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the fearful and the distressed among us, that God would powerfully guard our hearts through the peace of Christ, even as the world around us faints with fear and foreboding at the great signs of Christ's return, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the tempted among us, that the Lord would preserve us from dissipation, drunkenness and every temptation that would harm our souls; and that He might strengthen our faith as we joyfully await His return, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.



**P** For the leaders of the earth and those who govern, that God would work through them to thwart every evil that would hinder His reign and to establish peace in every place; and for all those impacted by the tragedy at Oxford High School, that the Lord would comfort the grieving, heal the injured, fill the troubled with His peace, uphold those who protect and serve, and bring to repentance all who would commit such acts of evil, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all Christian citizens, that in the midst of strife and conflict, and wars and rumors of wars, we would remember that God has given all authority in heaven and earth to Christ, who reigns on high, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the sick and sorrowing, that the Shepherd of Israel would give ear to their need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]; and for healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry out to God, that they may find comfort in His enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all troubled consciences, that the God of comfort would show them the love of Christ, lift their heads to see that their redemption is drawing near, and bless them through the preaching of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**



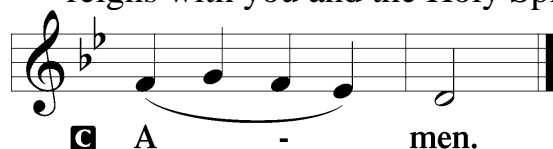
## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

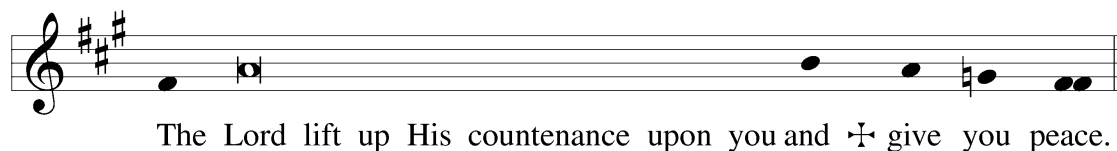
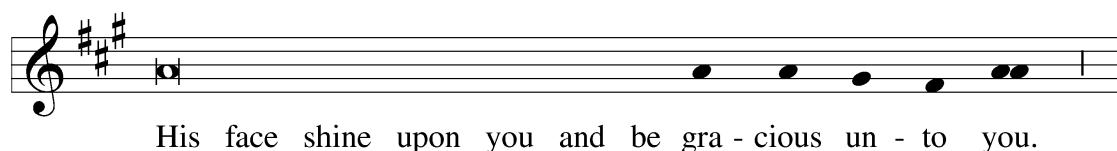
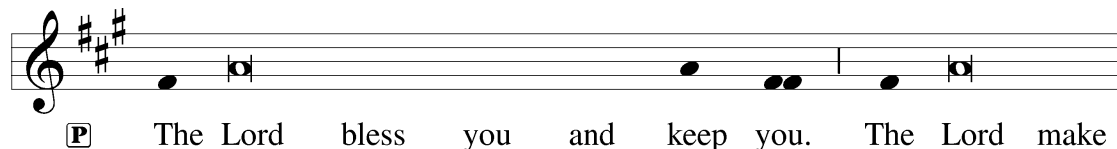
## Concluding Collect:

**P** Let us pray. Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24–26*

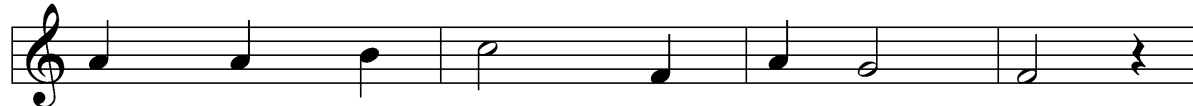




## Closing Hymn: 355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



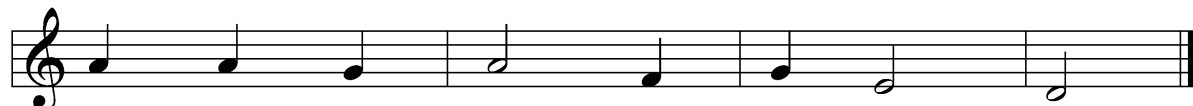
1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
 When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring;  
 Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
 To Ja - cob's line to rain down the King.  
 Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
 When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
 O Sun, arise; without Your light  
 We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
 Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
 O come, lead us with mighty hand  
 From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring  
 And sing to You, our Savior King;  
 There shall we laud You and adore  
 Forever and forevermore.

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## THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sun. 12/08 The Second Sunday in Advent

- **Divine Service – without communion** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Study** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

### Friday 12/13 Newsletter Articles Due

### Sun. 12/15 The Third Sunday in Advent

- **Divine Service with Communion** 9:30 a.m.
- **Adult Bible Study** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

## TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** – Our Sunday Adult Bible Study takes place **each Sunday morning after the Divine Service (around 10:45 a.m.)** in the basement fellowship hall, and all are welcome to attend!

**NEXT YEARS' OFFERING ENVELOPES** -- Next year's offering envelopes are now available. They are located in the back of the church. Please pick up yours today.

**FLOWER FUND:** The Flower fund is just about depleted. We need your help to replenish it. Any amount would be appreciated. Please help keep our Altar beautiful on Sundays not only during advent, but during the upcoming year. Please place your donations in envelope labeled flower fund. Thank you.

**MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE** The opportunities to worship continue with our sister congregations The services will take place at **7:00 p.m.** The schedule is as follows:

- **December 11** at Christ Lutheran Church, 620 General Motors Road, Milford
- **December 18** at Peace Lutheran Church, 7390 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford

Please make plans now to attend, if you are able!

**TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER** – We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. There are two bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can place product donations. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**



WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please be sure to leave ¼” of the envelope paper around the stamp.

THE FATHER'S HANDS FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHING Our Food pantry served over 450 people in September and the shelves are very empty. We are in dire need of the following items:

**Here are our food locker needs:**

Cereal, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, pasta mac and cheese boxes, tuna, canned chicken or any canned meat, protein beans, canned pasta dinners, Rice, canned vegetables, both starchy and non-starchy, canned or dried fruit, soups, Raman noodles, protein bars, dried potatoes

**For large family supplement bags:**

large cans of canned meat, dried milk, fruits and veggies, large family dried soups, large family sized baked beans, large family sized spaghetti sauce, large family sized spaghetti noodles; family sized shampoo and conditioner

**For personal bags:**

toilet paper, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, hand sanitizer  
Diapers - size 4,5 & 6 and newborns. And wipes

We are open for drop off on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-4:30 and Wednesdays from Noon - 5pm. We greatly appreciate any and all donations. Address:  
1133 Joslyn Ave, Pontiac, MI 48340



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## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:

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*Greetings, fellow Lutheran choral music aficionado!*

*My name is Bob Alexander. I've been the Director of Worship and Choral director for **Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills** for many decades now. For the past two years, our congregation has presented, as one of our Advent evenings, a colorful program we call **"An Evening of Carols and Stories"**. This year the event will take place on **December 11th** at 7:00pm. This year, we are reaching out you, one of our sister Lutheran congregations in the area in the hopes that you might be interested in joining the choir we assemble for this one-night event. The evening features a number of heartwarming Christmas reminiscences (usually pre-recorded and projected on our large LED screens), a small, but stunning, Christmas organ medley by Mr. Lance Luce, our organist (and, as it happens, the primary organist for The Detroit Red Wings), a selection of familiar carols sung by the congregation, a brief Christmas homily by our pastor, and, as you can imagine, three choral songs presented by a Christmas choir assembled just for the evening's performance. The choir is drawn from congregation members as well as friends, family and community members who simply love to sing. **If any of your members who may be interested in joining in on this charming evening. We will be rehearsing the three pieces of choral music on most Wednesday evenings beginning November 6th at 7pm**, affording us plenty of opportunities to learn the parts. **As is our practice, we will have SATB rehearsal tracks available in CD format or online as MP3s for choir members to access. We will, naturally, issue sheet music (and have printed PDF music available on line) for choir members to use and reference.** We will also be open to making music and accompaniment tracks of the songs we will perform available to your congregation in the event you would like to use the music for your own Christmas season performances. Choir members for "An Evening of Carols and Stories" **do not need to be especially proficient** – we have found the skills needed follow the enthusiasm of the vocalists. We also **encourage participation by members of all ages from teens to seniors.***

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## Second Sunday in Advent

The Second Candle is lit represents Faith. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in the flesh in history to accomplish our salvation, will also return in the same way to be our judge on the last day and bring us into eternal life.<sup>3</sup>





<b>SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING</b>
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Presiding Minister	Pastor Frank Pies, Emeritus
Altar Guild	Jennie & Karen Kaufman
Elder on Duty	None
Greeter(s)	Jennie & Karen Kaufman
Offering Counters	TBD
Organist	Rob Wheeler
Usher	Trent Johnson

<b>SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS NEXT WEEK, DECEMBER 15, 2024</b>
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Presiding Minister	Pastor Terry Nelson, Emeritus
Altar Guild	Jennie & Karen Kaufman
Elder on Duty	Darryl Swainson
Greeter(s)	Mary Ann Lockwood
Offering Counters	TBD
Organist	Rob Wheeler
Usher	John Reardon