

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW P. 146)
Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING
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.
Amen.

SENDING SONG “SOON AND VERY SOON” ELW 439

DISMISSAL
Go now in peace preparing the way of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Saint Luke’s Lutheran
3200 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 523-7981
First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
10:00am



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVNESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG “HE CAME DOWN” ELW 253

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.**

KYRIE (ELW p. 147)
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 149)
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONTACT US:

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TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. James Merkel

Ami-Luise Vucovich, Organ button pushers

Assisting Minister:

Greeter: Rhonda Crisp

Reader: Karen Smith &

Communion Karen Smith &

Assistants: Yvonne Poole Ritchie

Audio/Video: Ami-Luise Vucovich

Ushers: Patrick Lemons

Altar Guild: Yvonne Poole Ritchie

Altar Flowers:

Friendship Room: NO FRIENDSHIP ROOM

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE CANDLE - Murray Family
“*LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH*” ELW 240

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5 (NRSV OT p. 773)
¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.² In days to come the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14 (NRSV NT p. 197)
¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)
Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44 (NRSV NT p. 33)
The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “*THE KING SHALL COME*” ELW 260

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
....God of grace, hear our prayer.

...trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

PEACE

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY
OFFERING RESPONSE ELW 188
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)
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.**

PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)
Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

LORD’S PRAYER
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
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION
All are welcome to God’s table of Grace! Individually wrapped gluten free wafers are available for you to pick up from the table in front of the baptismal font. Grape juice is also available.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 145)
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.

COMMUNION BLESSING