

# Hollywood Lutheran Church

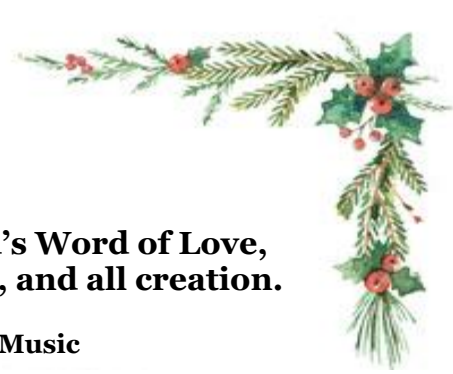
Third Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 14, 2025



## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.





## Welcome To Worship

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to offer God's Word of Love, Grace, Mercy, and Justice to our homes, congregation, city, and all creation.**

### **Welcome**

We are delighted that you have joined us today. Take a deep breath, center yourself, meditate, sing, and participate at your own pace. Let the congregation and this bulletin guide you, and follow along as you can. Join us after the service for refreshments. We look forward to meeting you. **Mask: If you aren't feeling well, please wear a mask. With a little effort from everyone, we stay safe and healthy.**

### **Visitor**

We invite you to complete the attendance card located in the pew. You may also include prayer requests, concerns, and any other information you would like the church to be aware of. If you are interested in meeting with a pastor, learning more about our community, or becoming a member, please make a note on the card.

The rainbow candelabra located on the altar serves as a reminder of this community's inclusive and intentional welcome to the **LGBTQ+** community. Our congregation uses the paschal candle at the sanctuary's entrance as the welcoming light of Jesus Christ. It has traditionally been utilized as a light to the world.

*Join us after the service for refreshments in Hoick Hall. We look forward to meeting you.*

### **In Today's Liturgy**

**Minister:** Ted Goulet, Lay Leader  
**Assistant Minister:** Bill Richards  
**Lector:** Karla Richards  
**Organist:** Michael Anderson  
**Cantor:** Phyllis Lundine

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Plants and Flowers are given to the glory of God.

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### **PRELUDE**

Michael Anderson

*The congregation is invited to stand as they can or feel comfortable.*

**Welcome, This Morning Worship Service Begins With**  
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

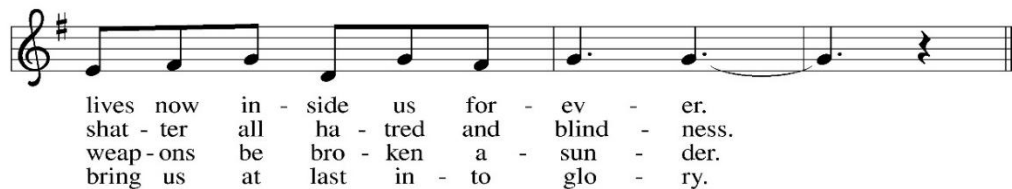
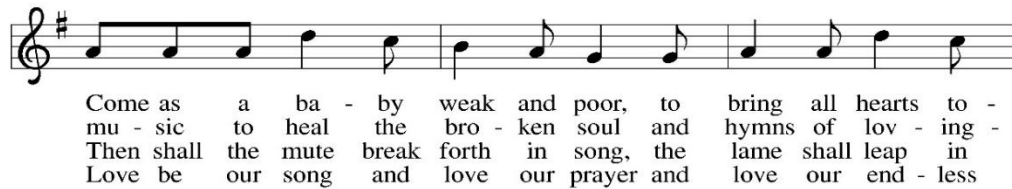
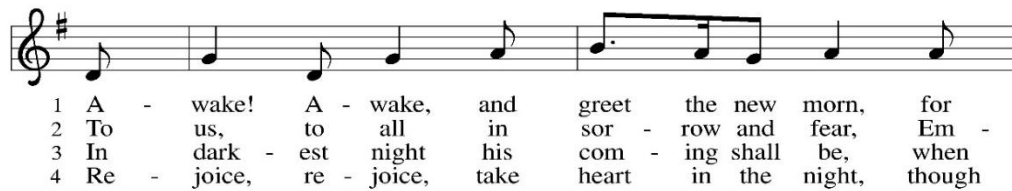
Let us pray.

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.**



## **GATHERING SONG**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (ELW 242)*



## **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.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus 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.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.  
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."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
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;  
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.

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.

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.  
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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



## **PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10**

*Refrain:* The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. **R**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**  
**who keeps promises forever;**  
who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.

**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**  
**the LORD loves the righteous. R**

The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**The LORD shall reign forever,**  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R**

## **SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

A reading from James.

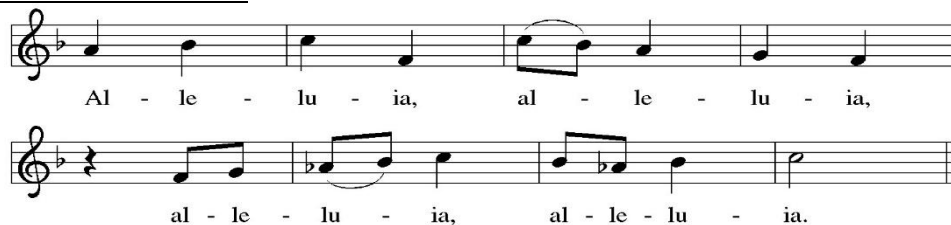
*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## **GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

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? What, then, did you go out to see?



Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.’

“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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 240)*



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## **SERMON**

Ted Goulet, Lay Leader

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)*



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!



## **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**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray for today?

*We invite prayers from the congregation to be shared.*

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

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The congregation is invited to be seated.*

Special Music by Michael Anderson  
*The usher will now pass the offering plate.*

### OFFERING

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



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 dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### 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.**

### 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.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.



May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

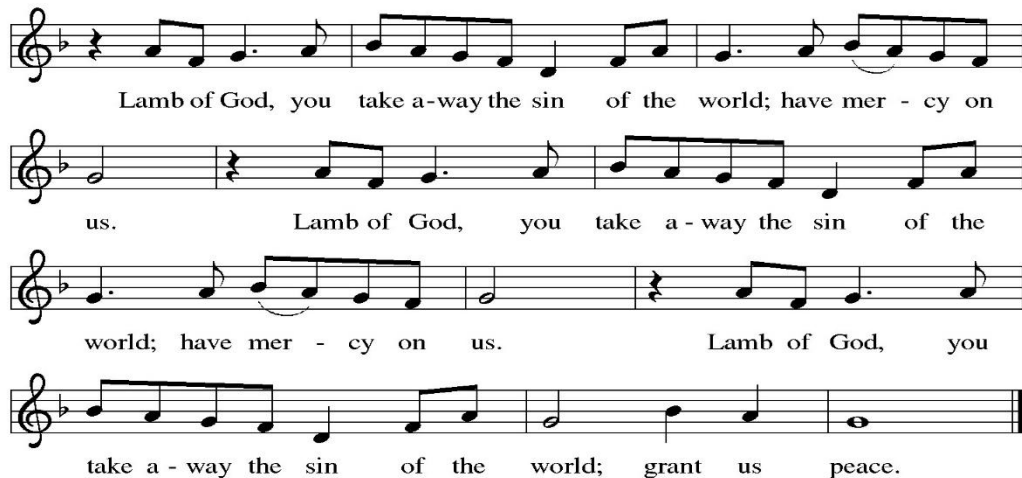
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are they who are called to His table."

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **COMMUNION SONG**



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.

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to or feel comfortable.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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 & SENDING FORTH**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

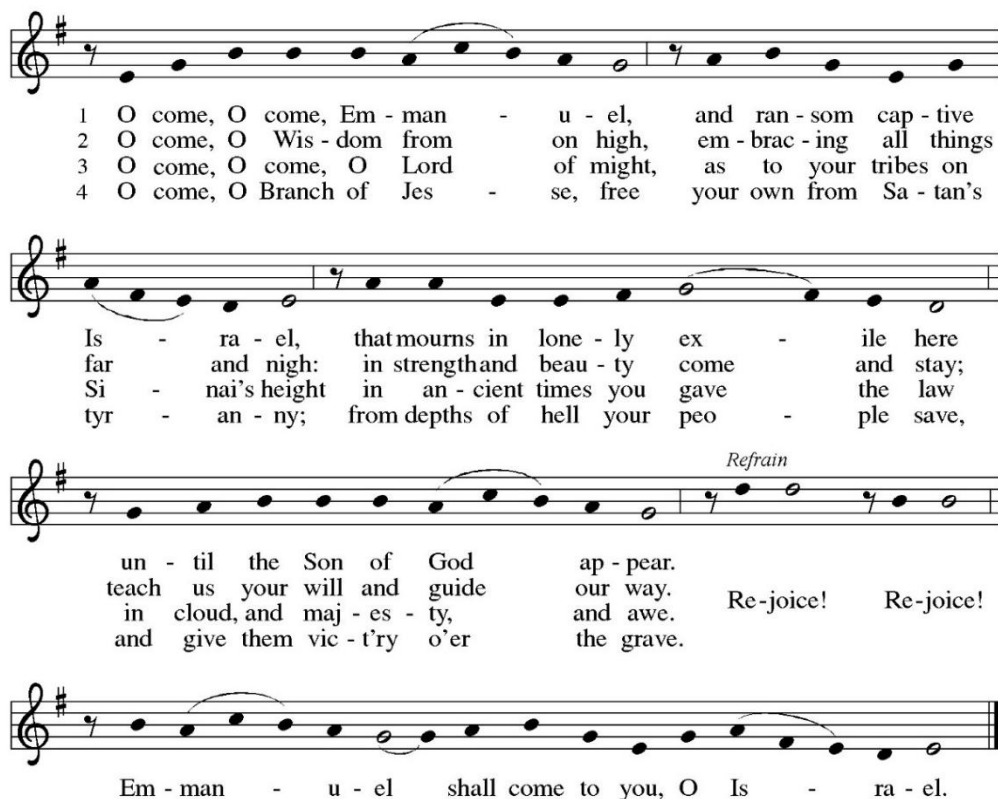
**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257)*



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,

*Refrain*  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
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.

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*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**





**Please offer your prayers throughout the week for the following individuals:**

**Special Prayer:**

God of peace give leaders of nations the wisdom to choose peace over war and dialogue over conflict.

For all families being separated. Comfort those who are fearful and caught in the middle.

**Healing:**

David Conrad, Scott Aries, Amara Olivera, Jeffrey Forbar, Roy Mariano

**Wholeness and well-being:**

Adelina, Deborah An Monahan, Thomas Richardson

**Trust in your mercy:**

Will Terry, Tamara Olivera & Alonzo Perez De Arre, Zakaria, Karin Garcia, Arvik Rostamians

**Strength and healing in fighting cancers:**

Barbara "B" Wilke, Anna Harris, Ashlyn, Jennifer Yates, Jaha Blackwell, Debra Lande

**Hopefulness and strength:**

Ted & Kerman Family, the Terry Family, the Pugh family, the Barnsdele Family, For all military people who are deployed or serving.

**Memorial Candles are lit in memory of:**

Elizabeth Kerman, Will Terry, David Lavan Pugh, Russell Barnsdele

If anyone wants to add or re-add a name, please email or call our office.

[hlchurch.office@gmail.com](mailto:hlchurch.office@gmail.com) (323)667-1212

Names typically remain on our list for a month, or they're removed before by request.

The rainbow candelabra located on the altar serves as a reminder of this community's inclusive and intentional welcome to the **LGBTQ+** community.

Our congregation uses the paschal candle at the sanctuary's entrance as the welcoming light of Jesus Christ. It has traditionally been utilized as a light to the world.



**HOLLYWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**104<sup>th</sup> Year**

We are a Southwest California Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation in America.

Email: [hlchurch.office@gmail.com](mailto:hlchurch.office@gmail.com) Phone: (323)667-1212

Website: [www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net](http://www.hollywoodlutheranchurch.net)

**Upcoming Calendar**

Food Pantry Delivery Mondays 8:00 am

Food Pantry Distribution Wednesdays 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

***Christmas Poinsettia Flowers***

***It's that time of year again.***

*This season, we're doing things a little differently—and we'd love for you to be part of it. If you'd like to bring a poinsettia plant to help decorate the altar as we prepare for Christmas, please feel free to bring one or a couple.*

*Ted will be happy to place all the plants up front for everyone to enjoy.*

