



Christmas

TREES

A MIDWEEK ADVENT SERIES

Wednesday December 17, 2025

Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church

Maineville, Ohio

Please stand

OPENING PRAYER

We rejoice, heavenly Father, that you have stirred up your might and have come to save us.

The eyes of our hearts turn toward Bethlehem, the birthplace of your Son, as the prophet Micah foretold.

As John the Baptist, still unborn, leapt with joy in the presence of your Son before his birth, help us also to recognize and rejoice in him as your Son and our promised Savior.

We joyfully receive the fulfillment of your prophecy.

In a most marvelous manner, you prepared a sacrifice for our sins in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

Send us your Holy Spirit that we may joyfully believe and receive this miracle of your love.

As we anticipate with joy the celebration of his birth,

Grant us your grace that we may see in him the greatness of your love for us. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

We confess, almighty God, that we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed our own ways and the desires of our hearts instead of your will and your way.

We have broken your commandments and neglected your righteous decrees.
We have offended you, our mighty and eternal God.

There is no health or righteousness in us.
O Lord, have mercy on us.

For the sake of your great mercy, O Lord, forgive us. Spare us the just punishment our sins deserve according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
And grant that for his sake, we may live sober, upright and godly lives to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, our heavenly Father, has taken away your guilt and punishment. Because of the innocent life and guiltless death of God's appointed Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, he has forgiven you and restored you to the blessed status of his child. May God grant you peace and joy as you await his return from heaven to gather his people home.
Amen.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out,
"Come, Lord Jesus. Come!" Please be Seated

Please be seated

READING

GENESIS 3:16–24

16To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” 17To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; 4 for dust you are and to dust you will return.” 20Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. 21The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” 23So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSES

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the LORD

and to seek him in his temple.

He will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;

be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

READING

JOHN 20:30–31

30Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

THE SECOND ARTICLE (REDEMPTION)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

567 What Adam's Disobedience Cost



1 What Ad - am's dis - o - be - dience cost, let Ho - ly Scrip - ture
2 An ark of mer - cy rode the flood, but we, where wa - ters
3 A lit - tle child is Ad - am's heir, is Ad - am's hope and
4 Re - gained is Ad - am's bless - ed - ness; the an - gels sheathe their
5 Re - newed, re - stored, we look a - head to glimpse that glo - rious



say: our - selves es - tranged, an E - den lost, and
swirled, re - built, im - pa - tient of the good, an -
Lord. Sing joy - ful car - ols ev - 'ry - where that
swords. In joy - ful car - ols all con - fess the
day when in the new Je - ru - sa - lem all



then a judg - ment day: each day a judg - ment day.
oth - er fall - en world: an un - re - pent - ant world.
E - den is re - stored: in Je - sus is re - stored.
king - dom is the Lord's: the glo - ry is the Lord's!
griefs will pass a - way. A - men. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text (sts. 1-4): Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000; (st. 5): Carol M. Bechtel, b. 1959

Tune: A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony, Harrisonburg, 1820, ed. Ananias Davison

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SERMON

REVELATION 22:1-5

1Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to God our Father and Jesus Christ, our everlasting Savior. Heavenly Father, to whom all glory in heaven and on earth is due, give to your holy Church the peace of sins forgiven and your merciful goodwill.

Come to us, Immanuel. Oh, God be with us!

O Word incarnate who came to be our Savior, give to all ministers of your Word the courage to boldly proclaim your saving truth. Fill us all with joy that together we make known abroad the glad tidings of your birth into this world. Through us may many more people who are lost in darkness soon confess you as their Lord.

Come to us, Immanuel. Oh, God be with us!

Bless our country, our fellow citizens, and all you have placed in authority over us. Let mercy, truth, and justice prevail everywhere to your glory, that people across our land will have opportunities to know the Prince of Peace.

Come to us, Immanuel. Oh, God be with us!

Merciful God, we thank you for the joys of family and friends this season, together with all the abundance of your blessings. Open our hearts and homes to the lonely and destitute that we may be instruments of your love and charity to all in need.

Come to us, Immanuel. Oh, God be with us!

Remember in your mercy the homeless, the hungry and the oppressed and give them hope. Grant peace and healing to the sick and suffering, especially to those in the hospital. Guide and protect the journeys of those who travel and comfort those who are lonely and grieve during this festive season. Create new and contrite hearts in the erring, and send your Spirit to create faith in those who still need to hear the good news.

Come to us, Immanuel. Oh, God be with us!

As we look forward to the celebration of your Son's birth, keep us focused on the joy that you have clothed us with eternal life. We also remember with thanksgiving all those who have lived and died in the faith. As we sing again our joyous hymns of praise this Christmas, may we hear their voices again, blending with the heavenly song of the angels.

Come, let us adore him. Christ the Lord, be with us! Amen.

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.

SONG OF SIMEON

Guide us waking, O Lord,
and guard us sleeping

that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we may rest in peace.

In peace, Lord, you let your servants now depart according to your Word.
For our eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for every people,

A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.
Amen.

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

HYMN: ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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BLESSING

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.
Amen.