



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel

to help people

Grow

in the Gospel

and

Go

with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

December 18, 2024

Advent Midweek 3



Christmas TREES

A MIDWEEK ADVENT SERIES

The Tree of Life

Pick an apple off its tree, and you have a great source of antioxidants and fiber. Pluck the fruit of an orange tree. It provides the daily supply of vitamin C. If you are fortunate to live in a climate where avocado trees grow, you get to eat that tasty fruit packed with healthy fats, B6, and potassium. Different trees with different fruits and different health benefits.

Imagine a tree that produced a fruit that enabled you to live forever. Such a tree once existed. It stood in the middle of the Garden of Eden. When mankind fell into sin, tainting all creation with the stain of death, God banned access to that tree. He did not want us to live forever in a world as broken as this one. But today, we see that through the work of Christ, access to that life-giving tree has been restored. We conclude our series on Christmas Trees by looking into paradise restored. There we find the Tree of Life, given to us once again by our gracious God. Eat up!

Advent Gathering Rite

Come, Come Emmanuel

The Choir will introduce the melody, the congregation joins in as the melody is repeated while the choir sings the verses over the repeated melody.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'Come, come Emmanuel.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'Come, Emmanuel.' The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second staff ends with a double bar line.

Sung

Choir: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Congregation: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Our redeemer forever, Oh

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: We are clay, you are potter, Oh

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Rouse your power to save us, and

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: God will strengthen us always, so

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: Stay awake and be watchful, Oh

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Choir: The appointed time will

C: Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Stand

The music continues softly as we speak the invocation, confession, and absolution.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the same of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

The congregation sings the melody while the choir sings the verses.

C: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and

C: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us and

C: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us and

C: **Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.**

M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

C: **We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

M: We hear his call to see the light.

C: **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Three Advent candle are lit. Be Seated.



Lesson

Christ paid for our rebellion by dying on the tree of the cross.

¹⁶ To 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.”

¹⁷ To 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.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And 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.” ²³ So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After 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. (NIV)



Psalm of the Day

The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation Psalm 27c CW

Refrain

The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of
whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Tone

Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;

be merciful to me and / answer me.

Do not hide your / face from me,

do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.

Do not reject me or for- / sake me,

God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,

the LORD will re- / ceive me.

I remain confi- / dent 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.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Tune: David Haas

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

Tune: © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Lesson

Revelation 22:1-5

Through the work of Christ the curse of sin has been removed and access to the tree of eternal life has been restored.

¹ Then 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 ² down 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. ³ No 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. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There 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. (NIV)

Hymn of the Day

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding CW 318



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889

Text and tune: Public domain

Devotion

Revelation 22:1-5

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer

M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: 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.

Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

C: Amen.

Be seated



Closing Hymn

Once in Royal David's City CW 343



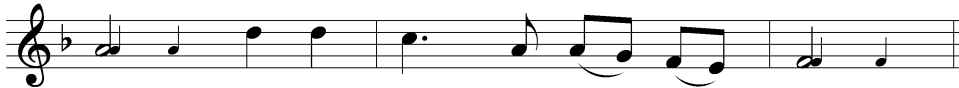
1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -
4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en



cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our
stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at



man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren
God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren



mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
on to the place where he is gone.
crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, abr., alt.
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876
Text and tune: Public domain