



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

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**Prelude:** Two Preludes on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – G. Krapf, G. Young

**Words of welcome & Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement**

### GATHERING

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** (*You are invited to stand*)

**Love Take a Walk** (*Sing Joy instead of Love*)

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,

Whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God

and of one another. Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn- There's a Voice in the Wilderness (ELW 255)**

**Greeting (ELW page 156)**





## Kyrie 5 (ELW page 156)

### Gloria- Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (ACS 901)



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow-ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:  
Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness shines the hope of com-ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang-er, in the out-cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.  
Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.

### Prayer of the Day

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.**

### WORD

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10**

**Second Reading: James 5:7-10**



## **Gospel Acclamation 5 (ELW page 160)**

### **Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> 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.’

<sup>11</sup> “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 our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ*

**Homily – Rev. Tim LeDrew**

**Hymn of the Day- Hark, the Glad Sound (ELW 239)**

**Apostles Creed (ELW page 105)**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Peace**

**Offering Prayer**





## MEAL

**Dialog & Preface**

**Holy, Holy, Holy 5** (ELW page 162)

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Lord's Prayer** (ELW page 163)

**Lamb of God 5** (ELW page 164)

**Invitation to Communion**

**Communion Hymn- O Come Emmanuel v. 5-6** (ELW 257)

**Prayer after Communion**

## SENDING

**Blessing**

**Sending Hymn- All Earth Is Hopeful** (ELW 266)

**Dismissal**

**Postlude:** Saviour of the Nations, Come – J. H. Buttstedt

***Third Sunday of Advent:** The third candle, a pink one called the Shepherd's Candle, represents joy at the news of the birth and the anticipation of Christ's return.*

### ***Those Serving the Servants Today***

**Presiding Minister** Rev. Tim LeDrew

**Minister of Music** Rachel Alflatt

**Assisting Minister** Sylvia Harris

**Cantor** Lorna Hau

**Lector** Carol Laslett

**Livestream Tech** Emmanuel Manu

**Usher** -

**Communion Set-Up** Heidi Ackermann

**Coffee Hour Hosts** Sylvia Schmidt

Paul Schmidt