



**IMMINENT
ARRIVAL**
AN ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 14, 2025



"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

A Place to Call Home: Victory

Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

A Quiet Room for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: www.victorylutheran.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



Worship Series Focus: **IMMINENT ARRIVAL**

Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he impacts our lives when the Bible is read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

Today's Worship: **IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH**

The Messiah is an important person. "Messiah" is the same word as "Christ" or "Anointed One." He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now we look at a time when his arrival is imminent!

The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that. We rejoice because God fulfills all his promises in Jesus.

Service of Morning Praise

Our Path for Worship

Minister: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace

Congregation: Your mercies are new every morning.

Guide our steps by the light of your Word.

Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

Better than life is your love.

Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!

Praise be to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

Let us worship Him.



OPENING HYMN

CW352 vs. 1-2, 4 | Joy Has Dawned

...this I call to mind

and therefore I have hope:

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself,

"The LORD is my portion therefore I will wait for him."

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him... Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,

so great is his unfailing love.

For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men
Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Let us give glory to God, our light and our life.

Let us worship Him.

COME, OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

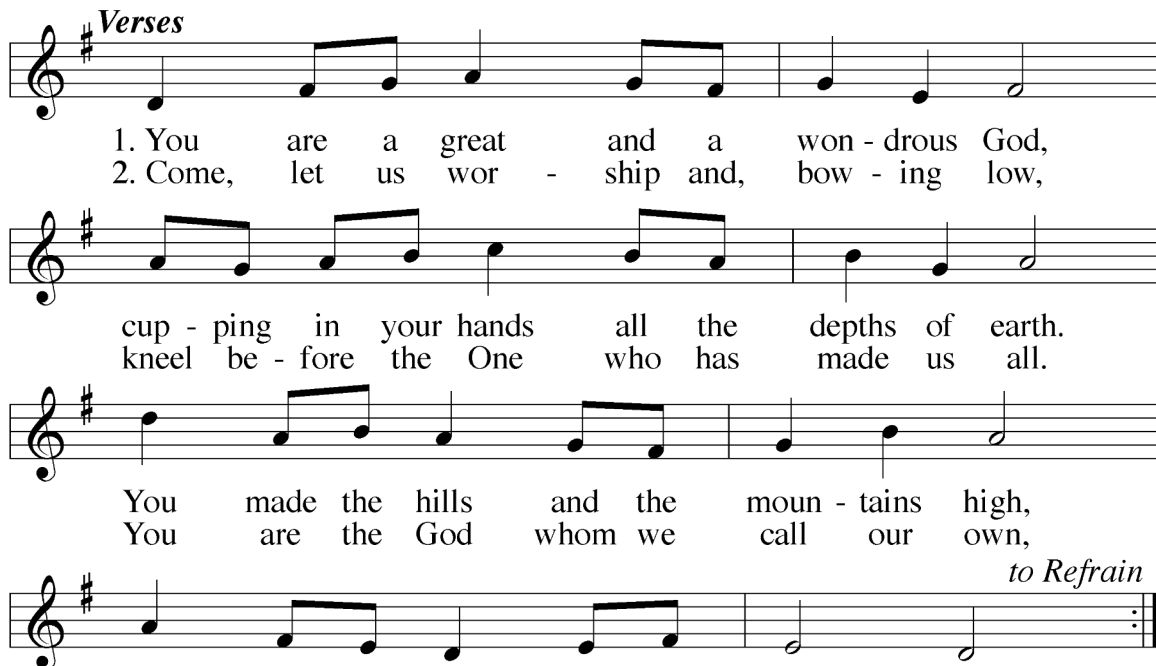
Venite

After a short introduction, the Congregation sings:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first three staves contain the main verse, and the fourth staff is a repeat of the last line of the verse, marked 'Repeat for use with canon'.

Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,
Repeat for use with canon
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

Verses



1. You are a great and a wondrous God,
 2. Come, let us worship and, bow - ing low,
 cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
 kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.
 You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
 You are the God whom we call our own,
to Refrain
 you made the seas and the dry land.
 we are the flock that you shep - herd.

Rejoicing in the forgiveness of our sins, let us pray: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light;

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- The 10:30 service continues with the Children's Processional on page 7 -

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah tells us that the coming of the Messiah would change everything

¹The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. ³Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." ⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶Then will the lame leap like a

deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. ⁸And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 146 | I Will Praise the Lord All My Life

SECOND READING

James 5:7-11

James points to Job as an example of perseverance in the face of suffering

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

CW519 | There Is a Redeemer

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

John's disciples wanted to verify that Jesus was the Messiah

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are invited to join Pastor at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.

HYMN OF THE DAY

CW324 | O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

- The 8:00 service continues with the Focus on the Scriptures on page 10 -

CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONAL **CW331 vs. 1, 3** | From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

1 “From heav’n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev’ry home;
glad tidings of great joy I bring,
whereof I now will say and sing:

3 “This is the Christ, our God most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry;
he will himself your Savior be
from all your sins to set you free.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Text: Public domain

NARRATION

Lydia Cochran

RECITATION

Luke 2:1–5

Grades 4–6

NARRATION

Trenton Smith

RECITATION

Luke 2:6–7

Grades 4–6

HYMN

CW340 | *Away in a Manger*
Children: vs. 1, 3; Congregation: v. 2

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Congregation

- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
 I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
 and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
 close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
 and take us to heaven to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1–2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.
Text: Public domain

NARRATION

Annelise Bond

RECITATION

Luke 2:8–14

Grades 1–8

RECITATION

Luke 2:15

Grades 1–3

NARRATION

Liam Bond

HYMN

CW361 | *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*The children sing the refrain, the **Congregation** sing the **verses** and join on the **final refrain***

Ref Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev’rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessèd Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain
Text: Public domain

RECITATION

John 3:16

Grades 2K–8

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL **CW331 vs. 8, 15** | *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery,
that you might share your joy with me.

15 Glory to God in highest heav’n,
who unto us his Son has giv’n,
while angels sing with pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text: Public domain

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Pastor Jonathan Kolander

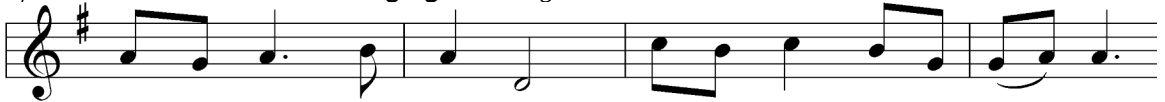
"Be Patient"

James 5:7–11

YOU ARE GOD; WE PRAISE YOU

Te Deum

After a short introduction, the **Congregation** sings:



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.



- Verses**
1. With the an - gels in heav - en,
 2. Cre - a - tor of all things, We praise you, we
 3. O Christ, King of glo - ry,



praise you! With the cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim,
O Je - sus Christ, the Son of God, We
You be - came a man to set us free;



praise you, we praise you! With a - pos - tles and proph - ets,
O Spir - it, most ho - ly, We
You have ris - en to free us;



praise you, we praise you! With the mar - tyrs and your
To the Trin - i - ty most
And with all your saints in



ho - ly Church,
bless - ed, We sing in end - less praise! *to Refrain*
glo - ry, *to Refrain*
to Final Refrain

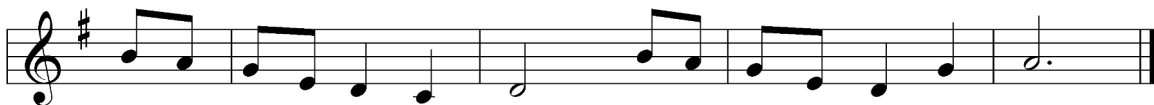
Final Refrain



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you.



To you, O Fa - ther ho - ly, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise,



all cre - a - tion of - fers praise, all cre - a - tion of - fers praise.

THANK OFFERING

To show our thanks to God for his generosity toward us, we gather this thank offering, an act of worship (Romans 12:1), to support our Gospel-focused ministry in the Jacksonville area and beyond. See our website for other ways to support Victory's ministry and mission. If you want to give your thank offering online, you may use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

10:30 Service

OFFERTORY

Carol | **arr. Gaudet**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE 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.

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

CW353 | *Joy to the World*



VIDEO

WELS Connection



Serving in Worship

Pastor
Accompanist
Children's Service Coordinator
Harpist

Rev. Jonathan Kolander
Ms. Jeanine Heller
Mrs. Anne Grotefend
Mrs. Virginia Black

For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1st. What does God call for from His people as they know He has not forgotten them and will come back for them? What in this section speaks to the Hymn 'Amazing Grace'? What about God's grace is amazing to you? Read Romans 3.
- 2nd. What are some things in life which eat away at your patience? How were some of the people noted in the Bible practicing patience? How do you see God's patience in your own life? Read Galatians 5:22–26.
- 3rd. What encouragement was John looking for and why? What proof did Jesus provide? How have you made the case for Jesus when talking with others who ask about Him? Read 1 Peter 3:15–16.

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Upcoming Service Themes

Join us for our Christmas Eve services at **4pm** and **7pm**, and our Christmas Day Celebration with Carols at **9:15am!**



Dec. 21	Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel
Dec. 24	<i>Christmas Eve Worship (4pm and 7pm):</i> Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia
Dec. 25	<i>Christmas Day Worship (9:15am):</i> Celebration with Carols
Dec. 28	Son of God
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Worship
Jan. 4	Love's Pure Light Beams from Thy Holy Face



Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship

9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Livestream

Contact Information

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Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

