

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Psalm 25:1-10**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.” With these words, often invoked at the table of holy communion, the church proclaims “the mystery of faith” (*ELW*, p. 110). At communion, we remember the good story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. But there is more! We also look forward to a time yet to be.

Thoughts of the future can inspire hopefulness for the promise of good things to come. Yet looking ahead can also conjure worries about what we do not know, or a sense of foreboding about what is out of our control. It’s hard not to hear in Jesus’ references to nature a warning about the dramatic effects of climate change. We inhabit a world in which ordinary signs that used to reliably mark the change of seasons are shifting. So when he talks about the trees sprouting leaves as a sure sign that summer is near, the image may leave us unsettled. In recent times, trees in some places have started budding when meteorological spring and summer are still months away. How will the trees respond when frost comes again? How is the church to respond in times such as these? Will the fig tree bloom on time this year?

Jesus’ parable of the fig tree comes smack-dab in the middle of some very disturbing news. Jesus offers an image of hope amid circumstances that seem all but hopeless. He talks of new growth even while what is old and familiar is passing away. Much like Jesus’ parable, the season of Advent invites the church to hold together these multiple, seemingly contradictory realities. We are called to rise up with courage and hope as we anticipate Jesus coming to us, without ignoring the weight of the world or neglecting our very real concerns. Jesus gathers us to the table where we remember his death but also his resurrection, where we pray for the world and also anticipate God’s redemption of all things.

THERE WILL
BE SIGNS
IN THE SUN,
THE MOON,
AND THE STARS

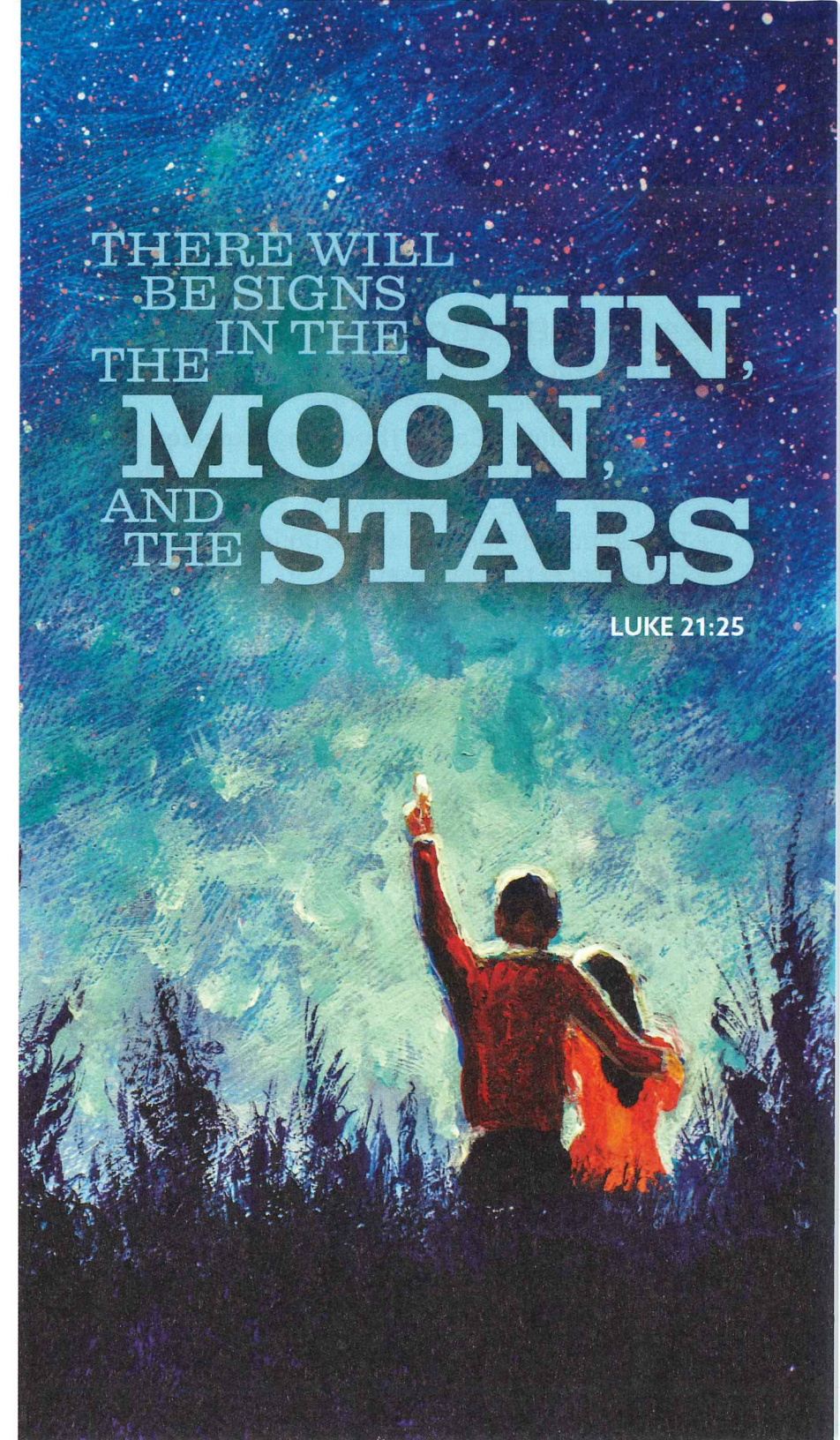
LUKE 21:25

Next Sunday’s Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

Cover: Night landscape, staring at Milky Way galaxy (acrylic) by Valery Rybakou. Copyright © 2024 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT) admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Tracks 1 and 2
Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A. ITEM013403 ELCA-F





Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

7800 West McCarthy Road, Palos Heights, IL 60463

The Pastor: Rev. Chris Buresh

The Associate Pastor: Rev. Andrew Bell

The Director of Children's & Family Ministry: Lori Puttkammer

The Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Basch



THE 9:00 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

A Time for Silent Prayer and Meditation

The Prelude: "Rejoice, Rejoice" Sedio

The Call to Worship: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

+THE HYMN: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT No. 715

+ The Kyrie – page 203 (Sung by All)

+ The Canticle of Praise is omitted during Advent

+ The Prayer of the Day (insert)

The Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

The Anthem: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Wilson

The Sermon: "Already...Not Yet" or "The Advent Virus"

Luke 21:25-36

+THE HYMN: AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET No. 242

THE NEW MORN

+ The Nicene Creed – page 104

+ The Prayers (insert)

The Voluntary: "Veni, Emmanuel" Peters

+ The Communion Liturgy – page 206

THE HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL No. 266

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS No. 254

+ The Prayer after Communion

+ The Blessing and Dismissal – page 209

+THE HYMN: THE SPIRIT SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE No. 551

The Postlude: "Postlude in Ancient Style" Blake

Today's chancel flowers are given by Warren and Carol Menou in thankfulness for their 66 years at Good Shepherd.

THE 11:00 AM SERVICE OF THE WORD

A Time for Silent Prayer and Meditation

The Prelude: "Rejoice, Rejoice" Sedio

The Call to Worship: "Advent Carol" Kenreich

The Children's Message: "The Tree of Light"

+THE HYMN: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT No. 715

+ The Kyrie – page 213

+ The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent

+ The Prayer of the Day (insert)

The Readings for the First Sunday of Advent

The Anthem: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Wilson

The Sermon: "Already...Not Yet" or "The Advent Virus"

Luke 21:25-36

+THE HYMN: AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET No. 242

THE NEW MORN

+ The Nicene Creed – page 104

+ The Prayers (insert)

The Voluntary: "Veni, Emmanuel" Peters

+ "Salvation Belongs to Our God" – page 219

+ The Closing Prayers – page 220

+ The Blessing and Dismissal – page 221

+THE HYMN: THE SPIRIT SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE No. 551

The Postlude: "Postlude in Ancient Style" Blake



The Organist: Beth Ridderhoff

The Cherub Choir Dir: Angie Pope

The Flute Choir Dir: Joy Ausec

The Lectors: 9:00 Lori Puttkammer

11:00 Alyce Christensen

The Acolytes: 9:00 Grace Castor and Jake Pengiel

11:00 Lucas Johnson



Join Good Shepherd in the Palos Santa Parade on December 7. Meet at St. Al's at 10:15 am. We'll pass out candy and share Christmas cheer. Contact Pastor Chris for more information.

Sign-up is available in the narthex for red poinsettias which will add to the beauty of our sanctuary for Christmas. The plants may be taken home after the Christmas Day Service. The cost is \$15, and all orders must be received by Tuesday, Dec. 10.

A blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, December 15 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. You may sign up in the narthex on Sunday mornings or on the bulletin board during the week. Blood supplies are dangerously low, so please consider donating this *gift of life*.

Gift card orders placed last Sunday are available for pick up today in the narthex. A second gift card order is due Sunday, Dec. 8 with pick up on Sunday, Dec. 15

The 2025 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up for flowers to celebrate an anniversary, wedding, birthday or to remember a loved one. The cost remains \$40. Thank you!

Calling all 6th – 12th graders! Come join Pastor Bell for some "Sports & Cookies" in the Life Center TONIGHT at 6:30 pm. Invite your friends and bring a dozen of your favorite cookies to share.

See the back of the insert for this week's calendar and more important notes.

Pictures may be taken at our service to use on our updated website. Please contact us if you desire we not use any photograph including your image.

DURING THE WEEK OF December 1

SUN	10:10 am	8 th Grade Confirmation
	10:30 am	Cherub Choir
	11:00 am	Sunday School
	6:30 pm	Sports and Ice Cream Gift Card Pick Up Today!
MON	4:00 pm	"Just a Quick Word" – YouTube/FB
	6:00 pm	Junior Choir
	7:00 pm	6 th & 7 th Grade Confirmation
	8:00 pm	"Body & Soul"
TUE	9:30 am	"Faith, Prayer & Joy" Group
	10:30 am	Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Discovering the Bible
WED	11:30 am	"OFF" Club Christmas Party at Silver Lakes
	6:00 pm	Adult Choir
THU	6:00 pm	Joy Ringers
	7:00 pm	Carillon Choir
	9:00 pm	Prayer Walk
SAT	10:15 am	Palos Heights Santa Parade
	10:30 am	Sunday School Christmas Service Rehearsal (Grades 1-5, Jr. Choir & Confirmation)
SUN	9:00 am	Service of the Word Online service
	10:00 am	Puppets
	10:10 am	8 th Grade Confirmation
	10:30 am	Cherub Choir
	11:00 am	Service of Holy Communion
	11:00 am	Sunday School
	12:00 pm	Gingerbread House Decorating
		LSSI Gifts Due TODAY
		2 nd Gift Card Order due TODAY

Make sure you sign up TODAY if you plan to attend next Sunday's fellowship event: Gingerbread house decorating. Join us on Sunday, Dec. 8, Noon – 2:00 pm. We'll have lunch from Pop's and then we will start decorating!

Parents of Sunday School Children: Please keep practicing the Christmas Service songs with your children at home! If you need a copy, let us know. Thank you

Welcome to Worship

"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation" (Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV).

A glorious hope

Let us today go down to Bethlehem, and in company with wondering shepherds and adoring Magi, let us see him who was born King of the Jews, for we by faith can claim an interest in him, and can sing, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend; let us adore and admire. ...

Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to



[humankind] its ancient glory; and let us pray that he may be formed in us, the hope of glory. C.H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*

Advent meanings

During Advent, which begins today, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your mercy alert us to the dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence, strengthen your church here, in Coronationville and around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and tiny plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet that we may nurture what you have created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to all those who serve our country and communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorce, relationships, new jobs, retirements, healing, and all of life's transitions (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept, shelter your people from destructive storms and the cold of winter. We pray for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and homeless shelters in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for all the saints. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation

Lynn Evers	Chriss Hassel
Carol Ross	Jack Tinberg
Bill Johnsen	Nicole Baldwin
Elden Podewell	Sue Buerger
BJ Quigley	Georgia Brennan
Gerhard Haigis	

Family and Friends of Members

Lee Sheridan	Barbara Borg
Alma Fremarek	Tom Seiberlich
Darwin Blake	Mary Harris
Howard Butville	David Payne
Jean Madaus	Dannis Angeles
Jasper Farr	Tracy Simmonds
Dean Huidobro	Samantha Shank
Al Innocenti	Dale Koch
Bob Stevens	Arlene Hajost
Justin Emmick	Joyce Latham
Debbi Barry	Anya Magnuson
Bill Poore	Sylvia Rodriguez
Dave Wonder	Howard Gantz
Ray Fredrick	Greg Feil
Cathi Kay	James Mayerak
Katy Peterman	Mary Jones
Rose Shannon	Dan Zakowski

The Prayer List has been recently updated. If there is someone you need added or removed, please contact the church office by 9 am Friday. Thank you!

