

Hope

The people
walking in
darkness have
seen a great
light.

Isaiah 9:2, NIV



Immanuel Lutheran Church



***Making known by Word and Action
The Healing Presence of God
And Christ Jesus
With us and with the world***



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When we celebrate Holy Communion, we are eating and drinking the true body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins. Because the Bible says it is possible for someone to eat and drink to their harm if their understanding of the sacrament is lacking, we ask our visitors to speak with our Pastor before communing here for the first time. Ask an usher to help you find our Pastor before the service begins or call during the week.



WELCOME to all guests and members; we are glad that you are here to worship with us and hope you will return often as *our friends in Christ!*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE – *We share a brief greeting of the Lord's peace with those around us.*

OPENING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343

Please stand...

INVOCATION AND BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

[P] In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

[P] Beloved in the Lord, as we begin the season of Advent, this wreath reminds us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom as the prophet Isaiah says, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.”

[P] Our help is in the name of the Lord,

[C] **Who made heaven and earth.**

[P] Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten everyone, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of Your love that we may welcome You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

P The Lord almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this wreath for use in His Church throughout this holy season of Advent.

C Amen.

HYMN – “*O Wreath of Green*” (Tune: Forest Green)

O wreath of green with lights of hope shine forth for us today.

Remind us of the prophet’s word, shine forth in us today.

The evergreen speaks life and growth to us in death and pain;

The light is Jesus Christ, our Lord, who saves us from our sin.

So week by week and light by light the Advent wreath shall glow

And when the time is right and full to Bethlehem we’ll go.

Renewed in hope by Him who came blest by His coming still.

We wait for Him to come again and all His Word fulfill.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C righteous and having salvation.

P Save us, we pray, O LORD!

C O LORD, we pray, give us success!

P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

C We bless you from the house of the LORD.

P The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us.

C Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

P You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

C you are my God; I will extol you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1 & 6

LSB 357

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated...

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

L The Old Testament Reading for the First Sunday in Advent is from Isaiah, chapter two.

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

[L] This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:8-14

L The Epistle is from Romans, chapter thirteen.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand...

ALLELUIA VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁶[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory

to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated...

HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Savior of the Nations, Come”
Please stand for the final stanza*

LSB 332

Please be seated...

SERMON

✠ FIRST COMMUNION ✠

We ask our youth in confirmation class to please come forward.

P Beloved in the Lord, in Holy Baptism these young people were born again as God’s children and received into His Church. As a further gift of His love for us, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Sacrament of the Altar and invites His children to receive this Sacrament in faith for the forgiveness of their sins. The apostle Paul reminds us, “Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup,” and “as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.” These candidates have received instruction and have been examined by the pastor regarding their sin and their understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar.

You are about to be admitted to the Lord’s Table. Holy Scripture describes the life of the Church and every baptized Christian with these words: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” You are invited by our Lord to come regularly to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. You will continue to be instructed and nurtured in the Christian faith and life. You are invited to confess your sins and receive the comfort of Holy Absolution. All this will help you live as the child of God you have been made through Holy Baptism.

In testimony of this faith and confession, I now ask you:

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is your Lord?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe that you are a sinner?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper He gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and to strengthen your faith in Him and your love toward others?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you intend to continue to hear and receive the instruction of your Lord, confess your sins, and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully throughout your life?

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P I therefore invite you to the Lord's Supper to receive Christ's precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Parents and members of the congregation, the whole Church shares with you the responsibility and concern for the ongoing instruction and spiritual care of these young people. I now ask you, will you intercede for them in prayer and, as much as you are able, give them your counsel and aid that, in communion with the Church, they may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ? Then answer: We will, with the help of God.

C **We will, with the help of God.**

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ loved the young and called them to Himself, we ask You to bless these young people. Strengthen them in the faith through the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood so that they may grow spiritually and bring forth the fruits of faith in a life of love toward others to the praise and honor of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P We rejoice with thankful hearts in your confession of faith. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His holy Supper, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Peace ✠ be with you.

C **Amen.**

Please be stand...

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the hospitalized: none known.

We pray for strength and healing for: Makenna Eversole, Donna Streuer, Mike Heidle, John and Ruth Roderick, Bev Page, Jensen Shutes, Dawn Campbell, Linda Pasquale, Rosalie Finet, Kyla Culotti, Rosemary Burmeister, Leslie Van Camp Stone, Del Krueger, Margie Souza, Dan Rull, Darlene Collins, Paul Teegarden, Earl Lackey, Dan Burmeister, Richard Wahlfeldt, Heather Christensen, Martha Elliott, Angie Lucas, Charlotte Schendel, Walter Harbison, Harvey Heerssen, Ethan Darby, Justin Fleming, Kevin Mixter, Jim Souza, Gregg Sacotnik, Joyce Owens, Joan Fleming, Linda Grinestaff, Jason Toms, Gabby Reynolds, Rodger Burgin, Toby Ceader, Sarah Koester, Tom Reese, Dottie Kliner, Mary Seifrig, Bruce Garrison, Carol Schafer, Tamara Fisher, Marilina Hutchison, Sarah and Patty Calderon, Keri Blankenbeckler, Jason Dawson, Judy Berg, Mike & Linda Borgward, Eric Wittmann, Kathy Howey, Frank Hutnicke.

Please be seated...

OFFERING / HANDBELLS – *“People Look East”*

Please stand...

OFFERTORY HYMN – *“Come, O Lord, We Wait in Hope”*

(Tune: “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” LSB 374)

Come, O Lord, we wait in hope,
Prayer, and expectation.
Make our hearts to know the peace
Of Your blest salvation.
Come, O Lord, our Morning Star,
Light of light forever.
May our lives reflect the glow
Of Your grace, O Savior.

Come, Lord Jesus, as the King
Long anticipated,
Witnessed in prophetic Word,
Joyfully awaited.
Come, Lord Jesus, and subdue
Foes that would distress us.
Be our true and lasting joy;
By Your advent bless us.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

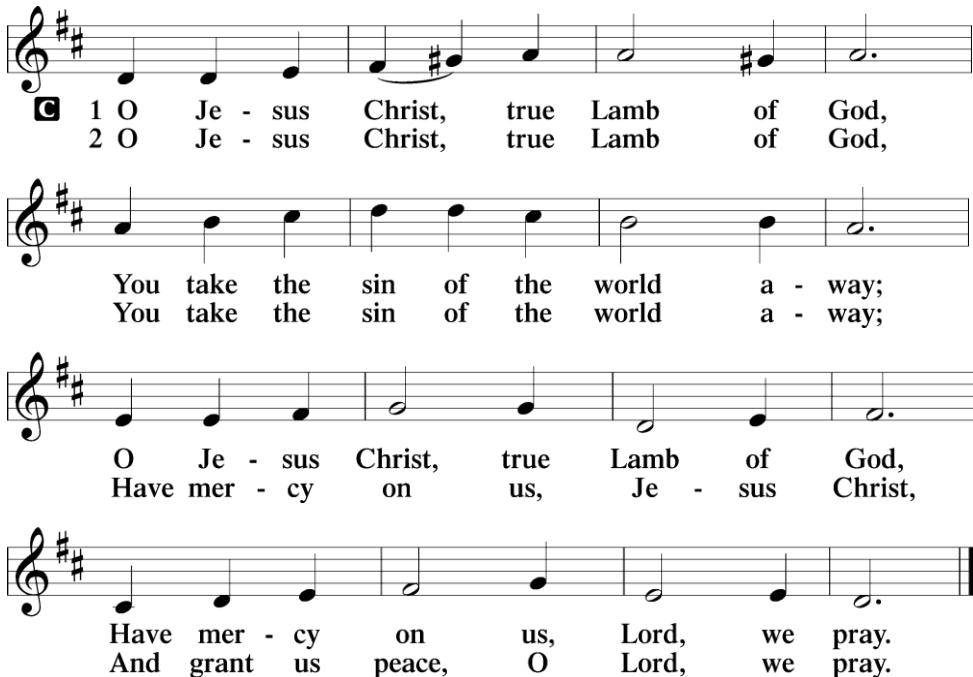
- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true us, Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated...

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Eat This Bread" **LSB 638**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" **LSB 341**

Please stand...

NUNC DIMITTIS

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

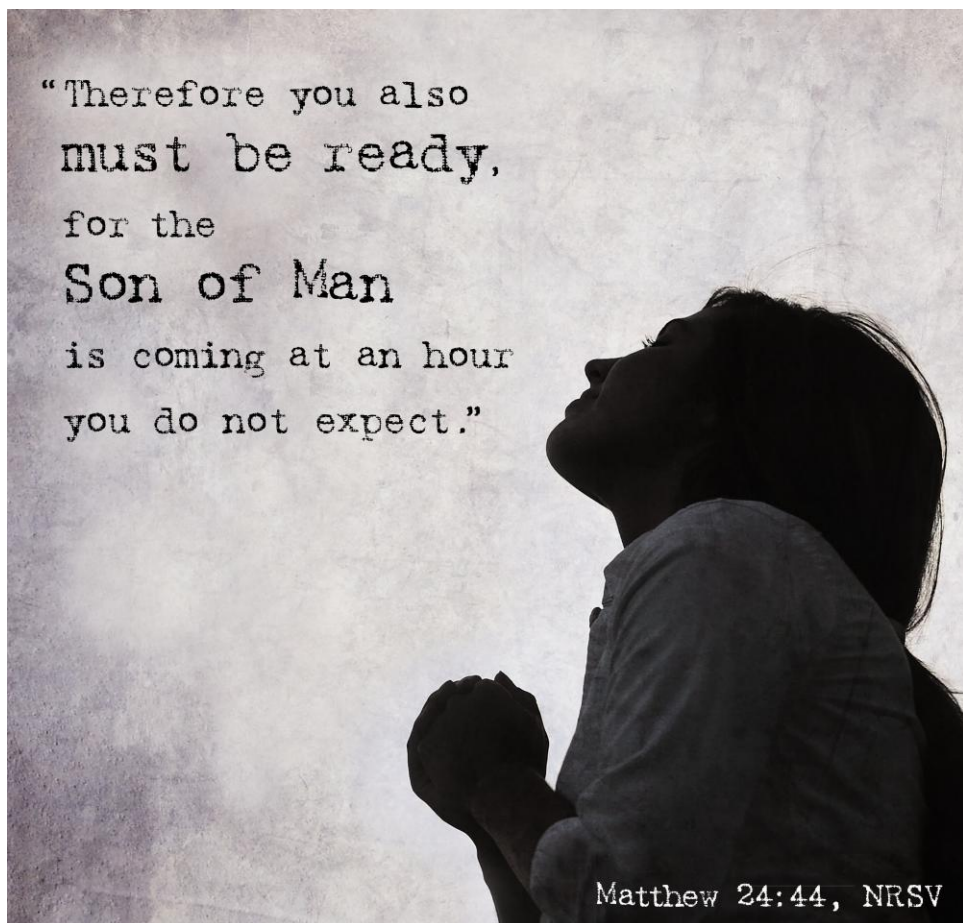
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”*

LSB 350

POSTLUDE



Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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God's Blessings on your First Holy Communion

This Sunday is such a special day, and we are so thankful to celebrate it with you. As you come to the Lord's Table for your First Communion, may you feel the love, forgiveness, and strength that Jesus so freely gives. We pray that this milestone deepens your faith and fills your hearts with joy and peace. Congratulations Owen, Eli, and Lexie!





ADVENT SUPPER: 5:00 PM
ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE: 6:30 PM

EVERGREENS – DECEMBER 3

Our decoration preparation includes the use of evergreens—from Christmas trees to pine garland. The evergreen decorations also help us prepare for the advent (or coming) of Jesus during Advent—a season of preparation. Today we will consider how evergreens point us to the coming of Christ and the eternal life that He brings.

LIGHTS – DECEMBER 10

Our decoration preparation includes the use of lights—from candles to twinkling LEDs. These luminous decorations also help us prepare for the advent (or coming) of Jesus during Advent, a season of preparation. Today we will consider how lights point us to the coming of Christ and the glory He brings.

CRECHE – DECEMBER 17

Our decoration preparation includes the use of the crèche—the miniature model of the nativity scene. The crèche is a distinctively Christian decoration in that it depicts the characters involved in the nativity of Christ: Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Men, the angels, the stable animals, and—most important of all—the infant Jesus. As we view this manger scene, we recall the timeless story of God coming to earth as a baby to redeem us from our sins.

GIFTS – DECEMBER 24

Our decorations include wrapped presents—gifts in colorful boxes and bags that are placed under the Christmas tree. But these gifts all pale in comparison to the gift that started it all at Christmas—the gift of God’s Son, whose birth brings us regeneration, renewal, and eternal life. On Christmas Eve, we consider how the gifts under the tree point us to God’s indescribable gift in Jesus Christ.

Every Heart Prepare devotionals for Advent are available in the narthex, next to the Portals of Prayer. these daily devotions connect our common Christmas decorations with our anticipation of Jesus’ birth. From December 1 to January 6, take time to ponder these profound readings featuring Scripture, a short message, and a prayer.