

Advent



**West Portal Lutheran Church & School
Advent Midweek 2
December 10, 2025**

ADVENT MIDWEEK 2—DECEMBER 10, 2025

LIGHTS

THEME OF THE DAY

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn’t mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

Tonight, we focus on lights. You see them everywhere this time of year. Some neighborhoods even compete, and tourist destinations spend millions on attractive light displays. Like evergreens, this is something nonreligious people do this time of year without appreciating their true significance. Yet we know that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). He came to restore righteousness to the world. This restoration continues to unfold through the ministry He has entrusted to His church. As Zechariah sang, “In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace” (LSB, Benedictus, Morning Prayer). We gather this evening to bask in the light of Jesus that His Word would have its way with us and so reflect His saving light into the darkness that remains in our world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 51: 15, 70:1

P O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
 The Savior promised long;
 Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
 And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
 In Satan's bondage held.
 The gates of brass before Him burst,
 The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
 The bleeding soul to cure,
 And with the treasures of His grace
 To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
 Thy welcome shall proclaim,
 And heav'n's eternal arches ring
 With Thy beloved name.

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Sit

+ READING +

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

P A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

P A reading from Second Corinthians, the fourth chapter .

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for

Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

THIRD READING

John 1:1-9

P A reading from John, the first chapter.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.
C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

HYMN***The Night Will Soon Be Ending******LSB 337***

- 1 The night will soon be ending;
 The dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending
 Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens
 With guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens
 And bids you sing again.
- 2 The One whom angels tended
 Comes near, a child, to serve;
Thus God, the judge offended,
 Bears all our sins deserve.
The guilty need not cower,
 For God has reconciled
Through His redemptive power
 All those who trust this child.
- 3 The earth in sure rotation
 Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God's salvation
 Glows in a stable's light.
As old as sin's perversion
 Is mercy's vast design:
God brings a new creation—
 This child its seal and sign.
- 4 Yet nights will bring their sadness
 And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness
 Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming
 Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming
 From sin's oppressive might.
- 5 God dwells with us in darkness
 And makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness
 And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us,
 However far we run.
God claims us still as children
 Through Mary's infant Son.

SERMON “Lights”

MUSICAL OFFERING

Offering plates to receive your offering are located at the Sanctuary Entrance.

Stand

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.
C And let my cry come to You.

P For eyes to behold the Father's hand in all creation, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

P For awareness of beauty and the living traditions of the church that bring Christ to our eyes through arts and crafts, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may see the signs of Christ's return even as we celebrate His birth, and encourage one another all the more as we see the Day drawing near, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may be living testimonies of new life in Christ through our loving service to our neighbor—both in word and in deed—let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may be thankful for the bountiful harvest we enjoy amid the many festivities of this season, and be generous to the poor, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may love one another as God so loved us, forgive one another, and work together in the unity we have in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may not be lured into temptation or despair or be distracted by the false Christmases around us, but always hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Lord of light and life, You came into our world to remove sin and restore us to righteousness. Shine Your light anew into our hearts and cleanse us from all the deceiving evils that lurk within them, that we may live without fear of this world but joyfully anticipate Your glorious return; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from You. Thank You for sending Your Son to bring the light of life into the world and shining it into our hearts through the Gospel. Give us Your Spirit to hold us fast as we walk through dark places that remain in our world. Grant that our faith not grow dim but, by Your grace, glow in us through our final journey—that we may radiate Your goodness and glory each day and many may join us in Your light and also walk with You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord  Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,
 Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
 Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
 Tell her that her sins I cover
 And her warfare now is over.”

- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
 Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
 He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
 God will change her pining sadness
 Into ever-springing gladness.

3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

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Sit

POSTLUDE

+ SERVING YOU TODAY +

Preacher

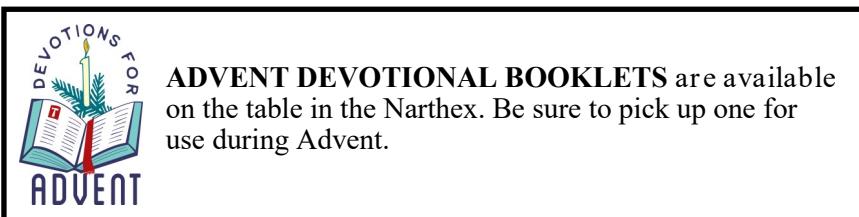
The Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor

Pianist

Amy Kao

Altar Guild

Ernestine Gutter; Rebecca Chan





Altar Flower Donations

The Altar Guild is again planning to purchase poinsettias to help decorate the Church during this Christmas Season. If you would like to help by donating to the flower fund, please complete this form and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, December 14. The suggested minimum donation is **\$15.00**. Please make the check payable to Altar Guild—West Portal Lutheran Church.

Name of person(s) donating flowers

Name of person(s) honored or remembered

Midweek Advent Services Continue in December



In Advent we prepare for the “advent,” or coming of the Lord our Savior. He first came in the flesh at Christmas, the fulfillment of all the prophecies of the Old Testament. More than that, however, He comes to us today in His Word and Sacraments. Then, as at His first coming, we gather now in patient anticipation of His final coming in the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

This Advent we are reminded that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives.

We continue to gather for Midweek Advent Services on Wednesday, December 17 and 17 at 7:00PM.

Advent Midweek 3 - December 17, 2025
Title: Crèche



Christmas Services

Join with us and invite family and friends to worship the Lord at any of our Christmas Services.

7:00 PM DECEMBER 24TH—CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Scripture lessons, lighting of candles; Christmas music

10:00 AM DECEMBER 25TH—CHRISTMAS DAY - FESTIVAL EUCHARIST
Carols and hymns; Lord's Supper

No SATURDAY DECEMBER 27TH SERVICE

10:00 AM December 28th SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Lord's Supper

No NEW YEAR'S EVE OR NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES



Join Us! Pastor Binz's Retirement Reception

The WPL Fellowship Committee is throwing a retirement reception to honor **Pastor Curtis Binz** for his incredible 26 years of ministry and guidance.

Come share your favorite memories and enjoy some fellowship, food, and fun as we send Pastor Binz off to his well-deserved retirement!

When: Sunday, 1-4-2026, 11:15 a.m.

Where: Parish Hall of WPL Church, 200 Sloat Blvd., SF

Details: Light reception and cake will be served.

Please help us get a headcount by letting me know if you can make it by **Sunday, 12/28**.

Contact: 415-661-0242, extension 221 or may.luu@wplsf.com to RSVP.

Let's make this a memorable send-off!

May Luu
Church Secretary/Administrative Assistant



West Portal Lutheran
Church & School

Worship Services

Saturday, 5:00PM
Sunday, 10:00AM

Bible Classes

Wednesday, 11:00AM
Sunday, 9:00AM

Sunday School

Sunday, 9:00AM

CHURCH

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San Francisco CA 94132
415-661-0242
www.
westportallutheran.org

SCHOOL

Sloat Campus
200 Sloat Boulevard
San Francisco CA 94132
415-665-6330

Sunset Campus
3101 Moraga Street
San Francisco CA 94122
415-731-3000
www.wplsf.com

Rev. Curtis Binz,
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jacob Swenson,
Associate Pastor

Ms. Sherise Lee,
Principal

Mrs. Sherilyn Jew,
Assistant to the Principal
Teaching, Learning, Curriculum

Ms. Amy Kao
Church Music Director

Advent Midweek 2
12/10/25
7:00PM