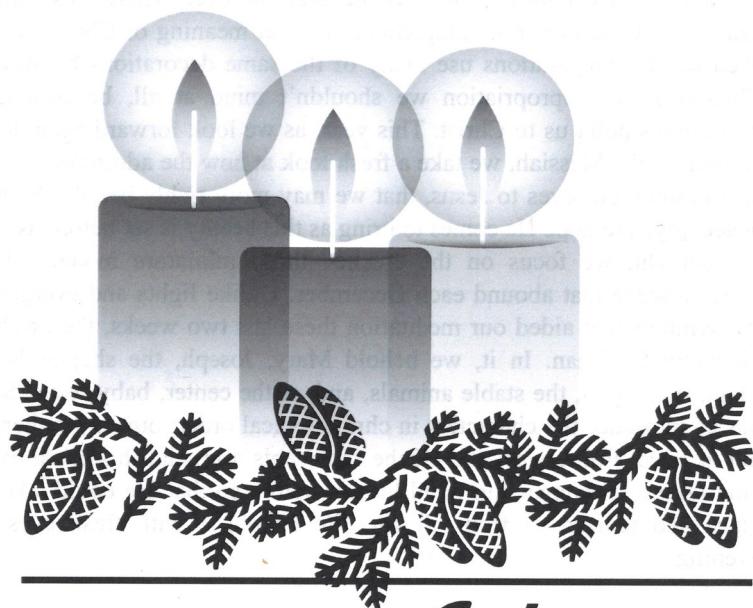


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# Advent



**West Portal Lutheran Church & School  
Advent Midweek 3  
December 17, 2025**

## ADVENT MIDWEEK 3—DECEMBER 17, 2025

### CRÈCHE

#### 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 the crèche—those miniature models of the nativity scene that abound each December. Unlike lights and evergreens, the symbols that aided our meditation these last two weeks, the crèche is distinctly Christian. In it, we behold Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Magi, the angels, the stable animals, and, at the center, baby Jesus. Some places introduce the characters in chronological order; others put them all out at once. Either way, the crèche represents a crucial, historical event: God taking on human form and human nature so that He could take our place and redeem us from all sin. We behold it with fresh eyes this evening.

#### 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.

+ PSALMODY +

**PSALM**

*Psalm 89:1-8; antiphon: v. 8*

**P** O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD,  
with Your faithfulness all around You?

**C** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to  
all generations.

**P** For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the  
heavens You will establish Your faithfulness.”

**C** You have said, “I have made a covenant with My chosen  
one; I have sworn to David My servant:

**P** ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your  
throne for all generations.’”

**C** Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD, Your  
faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**P** For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who  
among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

**C** a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy  
ones, and awesome above all who are around Him?

**All:** 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.

**P** O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O LORD,  
with Your faithfulness all around You?

## HYMN

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*LSB 338*

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
    Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
    Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
    Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
    Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
    Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
    Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
    Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
    Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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*Sit*

+ READINGS+

## FIRST READING

**1 John 1:1-4**

**P** A reading from First John, the first chapter.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**P** A reading from St. Matthew, the first chapter.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**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.**

**SERMON**

**“A God That Can Be Touched”**  
**Text: 1 John 1:1-4**

## MUSICAL OFFERING

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

## + CANTICLE +

*Stand*

**HYMN**      *My Soul Rejoices*

**LSB 933**

1 My soul rejoices,  
    My spirit voices—  
    Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
        For God my Savior  
        Has shown me favor—  
    Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
        With praise and blessing,  
        Join in confessing  
        God, who is solely  
        Mighty and holy—  
    O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
        His mercy surely  
        Shall rest securely  
        On all who fear Him,  
        Love and revere Him—  
    O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

2 His arm now baring,  
    His strength declaring—  
    Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
        The proud He scatters,  
        Their rule He shatters—  
    Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
        Oppression halted;  
        The meek exalted.  
        Full are the hungry;  
        Empty, the wealthy—  
    O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
        Here is the token  
        All that was spoken  
        To Abr’ham’s offspring  
        God is fulfilling—  
    O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

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+ PRAYER +

**KYRIE**

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

**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.

**COLLECTS**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with your spirit.

**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 <sup>†</sup> Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*LSB 357, Sts. 1,5*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

**Refrain**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

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*Sit*

## POSTLUDE

+ SERVING YOU TODAY +

*Preacher*

*The Rev. Jacob Swenson, Associate Pastor*

*Liturgist*

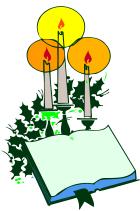
*The Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor*

*Pianist*

*Amy Kao*

*Altar Guild*

*Ernestine Gutter, Darlene Hartman,  
Rebecca Chan*



# *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@wplsfc.com](mailto:may.luu@wplsfc.com) to RSVP.

Let's make this a memorable send-off!

May Luu  
Church Secretary/Administrative Assistant





**Worship Services**

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

**Bible Classes**

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

**Sunday School**

Sunday, 9:00AM

**CHURCH**

200 Sloat Boulevard  
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 3  
12/17/25  
7:00PM*