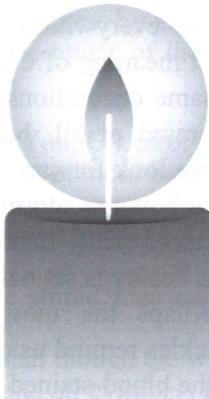


Advent



**West Portal Lutheran Church & School
Advent Midweek 1
December 3, 2025**

ADVENT MIDWEEK 1—DECEMBER 3, 2025

EVERGREENS

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 evergreens. Perhaps the most innocuous decorations in the eyes of the world, their prickles remind us of the crown of thorns, and the berries of the holly evoke the blood-stained brow of our crucified Lord. Above all, the steadfastness of their green in the midst of death symbolizes life amid death—and the life eternal Jesus won for us on the cross.

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 92; antiphon: v. 12

P The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

C It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

P to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night,

C to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

P For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

C How great are Your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

P The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:
that though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction forever;

C but You, O LORD, are on high forever.

P For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, for behold, Your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.

C But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
You have poured over me fresh oil.

P My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

C The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

P They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

C They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,

¶ to declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in 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.

¶ The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

HYMN

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!
- 3 My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

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Sit

+ READING +

FIRST READING

Hosea 14:4-8

P A reading from Hosea, the fourteenth chapter.

I will heal their apostasy;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.

I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily;
he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;
his shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive,
and his fragrance like Lebanon.

They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;
they shall flourish like the grain;
they shall blossom like the vine;
their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
It is I who answer and look after you.

I am like an evergreen cypress;
from me comes your fruit.

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

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:1-5

P A reading from Revelation, the twenty-second chapter.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They

will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

THIRD READING

John 11:17–27

P A reading from John, the eleventh chapter.

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is 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.

+ CANTICLE +

HYMN *The Tree of Life* **LSB 561**

- 1 The tree of life with ev'ry good
In Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet
God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew
Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned
Against whose eating God had warned.
- 2 The stillness of that sacred grove
Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile
And Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed
Within the world so newly made.
- 3 What mercy God showed to our race,
A plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman's seed,
The One to fill our greatest need—
For on a tree uplifted high
His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread
To crush the ancient serpent's head!
- 4 Now from that tree of Jesus' shame
Flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe,
Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood
The tree of life with ev'ry good.

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SERMON **“Evergreens”**

TITHES AND 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 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  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!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

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. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor

Pianist

Amy Kao

Altar Guild

Virginia Ferry, Rebecca Chan



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS are available on the table in the Narthex. Be sure to pick up one for use during Advent.

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.

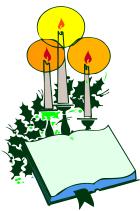
We continue to gather for Midweek Advent Services on Wednesdays, December 10 and 17 at 7:00PM.

Advent Midweek 2 - December 10, 2025

Title: Lights

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

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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SCHOOL

Sloat Campus
200 Sloat Boulevard
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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 1
12/3/25
7:00PM