

## **CHURCH @ HOME SERVICE ORDER**

**Sunday, 21 December 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### **INVOCATION**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

### **GREETING ONE ANOTHER**

#### **JESUS HAS COME**

**Jesus has come, and brings joy as our Saviour,  
Alpha and Omega, see he is here!  
Mighty Creator, and strong deliver,  
God and yet Human, to us her draws near.  
Christians, proclaim him, the same now and ever:  
Jesus has come, and brings joy as our Saviour.**

**Jesus has come, as the King he is reigning;  
Sing of his mercy and praise his great might.  
Loving and gracious, your hearts he is claiming;  
Open them, then, to your Lord with delight.  
Think of his love and the crown you are gaining;  
Jesus has come; as the King he is reigning**

**Jesus has come and his grace is bestowing,  
Comes with his mercy, each longing to still.  
Life-giving waters for all are now flowing;  
Come, all who thirst, come drink, all who will.  
Great is the mercy and love he is showing:  
Jesus has come and his grace is bestowing.**

**Johann Ludwig Konrad Allendorf 1693-1773**

**LORD HAVE MERCY**

*(spoken)*

*Lord, have mercy.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Christ, have mercy.*

**Christ, have mercy.**

*Lord, have mercy.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

**O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL**

**O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold Him,  
born the king of angels:**

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**God of God, Light of light,  
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created:**

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet You,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to You be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:**

**O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!**

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Let us pray.*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Stir up your power, O God, and come to save us. As you fulfilled your promise in the birth of Immanuel, renew our faith and shine your face upon us, that we may trust your Word and walk in your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19**

*Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,*  
**you who lead Joseph like a flock.**

*You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,*  
**shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**

*Awaken your might;*  
**come and save us.**

*Restore us, O God;*  
**make your face shine on us,**  
**that we may be saved.**

*How long, Lord God Almighty,*  
**will your anger smoulder**

**against the prayers of your people?**

*You have fed them with the bread of tears;*  
**you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.**

*You have made us an object of derision to our neighbours,*  
**and our enemies mock us.**

*Restore us, God Almighty;*  
**make your face shine on us,**  
**that we may be saved.**

*Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,*  
**the son of man you have raised up for yourself.**

*Then we will not turn away from you;*  
**revive us, and we will call on your name.**

*Restore us, Lord God Almighty;*  
**make your face shine on us,**  
**that we may be saved.**

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

**BIBLE READING**

**Isaiah 7:10-16** - A virgin will conceive

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

*After the reading*  
*This is the Word of the LORD.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Romans 1:1-7** - Jesus, son of David, Son of God

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*After the reading*  
*This is the Word of the LORD.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Matthew 1:18-25 - God's call to Joseph**

*Before the reading*

**Glory be to You, O LORD.**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

*After the reading*

*This is the gospel of the LORD.*

**Praise be to You, O Christ.**

### **ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**We believe in God the Father, the Creator of heaven and earth, who sent his light into the world and calls us to walk in the brightness of his love.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of the world. Promised by the prophets, he came in humility at Bethlehem, lived among us full of grace and truth, died on the cross for our sins, and rose in glory to bring us life. Risen from the dead and ascended above, we await his coming again in power and majesty, to make all things new and to bring his kingdom of peace.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who kindles faith in our hearts, renews our hope, and prepares us for the coming of the Lord. We believe that the Church is called to be a light in the darkness, a sign of God's coming kingdom, and a people watching and waiting in joy. Therefore, with faith and longing, we proclaim: Come, Lord Jesus – our light, our life, our hope, and our peace. Amen.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE**

### **Bible Verse:**

“The angel said, ‘I bring you good news of great joy.’” — Luke 2:10

(The first, second, third & fourth Advent Candles are lit)

### **Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, you are God’s love come to us.  
Help us to love others the way you love us.  
Thank you for coming to be our Saviour. Amen.

## **LIGHT OF THE NATIONS**

**Light of the nations, love for the lonely,  
you are our freedom from every dark prison;  
shine your light on the world,  
shine your light on the world.**

**Light of the nations, love for the lonely,  
you are our freedom from every dark prison;  
shine your light on the world,  
shine your light on the world.**

**Light of the nations, love for the lonely,  
you are our freedom from every dark prison;  
shine your light on the world,  
shine your light on the world.**

Robin Mann

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## **MESSAGE**

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.  
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))  
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,  
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,  
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your  
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the  
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be  
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to  
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He  
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.  
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

## **JESUS, SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD**

**Jesus, Saviour of the world,  
come in mercy, set us free.  
*We look to You to help and save us.***

**By Your cross and precious blood,  
You redeemed Your people, Lord.  
*We look to You to help and save us.***

**Your disciples cried for help;  
You were there and saved their lives.  
*We look to You to help and save us.***

**Free us from the chains of sin,  
so that we can sing Your praise.  
*We look to You to help and save us.***

**Come and live with us, O Lord,  
stay forever, Jesus Christ.  
*We look to You to help and save us.***

**When You come in glory, Lord,  
make us to be one with You.  
*We look to You to help and save us.***

David Schubert, by permission

## OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Father,

**You keep your promises and come to us in Jesus, our Immanuel. As we bring our gifts, fill us with thankful hearts and trusting faith. Bless these offerings so that your light shines in our community and your love is known. Make us faithful servants of your Son, who is with us always. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)*

Father in Heaven, we give you thanks for sending your Son to be with us. Bless your church in these weeks, so that all people may know Immanuel through forgiveness in his name.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

The advent of your Son confronted kings and astounded the people. Touch the conscience of all our leaders and citizens, so that goodness prospers, evil is curbed, and the light of truth dispels all falsehood.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for protecting us in trouble and adversity. Sustain all who continue to serve us in this festive season: the police, the medical services, emergency services, and all whose hours are long and whose work is arduous or dangerous.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for our families and friends: bind us together in mutual affection and help us to overlook our grievances. And teach us hospitality, that in welcoming others, we may welcome you.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we thank you for sending your promised Son, Jesus Christ. Help us, as his brothers and sisters, to imitate him, so that when he comes again we may be ready to greet him with joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING TO SHARE

*May God fill your hearts with hope as you await Christ.*  
**May God fill your hearts with hope as you await Christ.**  
*May the Word made flesh bring you joy and courage.*  
**May the Word made flesh bring you joy and courage.**  
*May the grace of Jesus and the Spirit sustain you always.*  
**May the grace of Jesus and the Spirit sustain you always. Amen.**

## COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

**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 every nation  
Joy of every longing heart**

**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**