



# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Corner of Broadway and Florey



713 Florey Street  
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503  
[www.pilgrimlc.org](http://www.pilgrimlc.org)

Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor  
903- 984-4333  
[pastor@pilgrimlc.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimlc.org)

**BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!** Advent is a season of “coming”: our Lord came once in the past humbly in human flesh to save us from our sins, He comes to us repeatedly now humbly in His Word and Sacraments to forgive us, and He will come a final time in the future in glory to judge the living and the dead. We are glad that you have come here this day! We welcome you here, and we invite you to come again any time!

**AS YOU ARRIVE**, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back. The △ symbol before a hymn stanza indicates that it especially gives glory to the Triune God; we stand before singing the stanza and, in most cases, conclude the stanza by singing “Amen.”, if an “Amen” is not already included.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

**INDIVIDUAL CUPS:** The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

2025 DECEMBER 07

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE (*Lutheran Service Book*, pp.151-166.)

**+++ IN THE NAME OF JESUS +++**

Catechesis	Section 1 The Ten Commandments (Tenth).	322
Confession and Absolution	(right column)	151

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

Entrance Hymn:	“Arise, O Christian People”	<b>354</b>
Kyrie		152-153

(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.)

Salutation and Collect of the Day		156
-----------------------------------	--	-----

Old Testament (& Response):	Isaiah 11:1-10	156
-----------------------------	----------------	-----

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7 (antiphon: v.18)		<b>72</b>
--------------------------------------	---	-----------

(Chant the Psalm responsively: the congregation sings the indented and bold portions.)

The indicated antiphon is sung both before the Psalm and after the *Gloria Patri*.)

Epistle (& Response):	Romans 15:4-13	156
-----------------------	----------------	-----

Alleluia and Verse (Common)		156
-----------------------------	--	-----

Holy Gospel (& Responses):	Matthew 3:1-12	157
----------------------------	----------------	-----

Hymn of the Day:	“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”	<b>344</b>
------------------	--------------------------------------	------------

Sermon	Matthew 3:1-12	
--------	----------------	--

Nicene Creed		158
--------------	--	-----

Prayer of the Church, Offering, & Offertory		159-160
---	--	---------

**P** ... Lord, in your mercy: **G** Hear our prayer.

(Offerings placed in the Box in the Narthex before the Service are brought forward here.)

**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Preface, Sanctus, Prayer of Thanksgiving, (left column)		160-163
---	--	---------

The Words of Our Lord, Proclamation of Christ, (Prayer of Remembrance,) Lord’s Prayer, Pax Domini, & Agnus Dei

Distribution (& Distribution Hymns):		164
--------------------------------------	--	-----

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”		<b>347</b>
---------------------------------	--	------------

“What Is This Bread”		<b>629</b>
----------------------	--	------------

“O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth”		<b>834</b>
-------------------------------------	--	------------

Post-Communion Canticle	“Nunc Dimittis”	165
-------------------------	-----------------	-----

Post-Communion Collect & Benediction		166
--------------------------------------	--	-----

Closing Hymn:	“Jesus Shall Reign”	<b>832</b>
---------------	---------------------	------------

**+++ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY +++**



***John's warning is still true:  
every tree that does not  
bear good fruit is cut down  
and thrown into the fire.***

The black and white line-art drawing on the front cover is by Lutheran Artist Edward Riojas of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is part of a package purchased from Higher Things and donated to Pilgrim for such uses. The Psalm tone is © 2006 Concordia Publishing House, reproduced by permission under license #110005153

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 07, 2025

**BEFORE THE SERVICE:** As you greet and visit one another, please be sensitive to others who may wish an opportunity for silence to pray and otherwise to prepare for worship.

**OFFERING BOX:** Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box in the Narthex before or after services. Envelopes are available on the side of the Box for your use, such as if you would like your cash offering to be recorded, tracked, and receipted in a report back to you.

**PEW CUSHIONS:** If you would like to use a cushion either for your seat or for your seat and back, cushions for your use are available in the Usher's Closet off the north side of the Narthex.

**PEW SLIPS:** *Visitors*, please register your attendance both by completing a slip from rack on the back of the pews and placing them in the Offering Box in the Narthex and by signing the Guest Register at the door. *Members*, please complete a slip only if your contact information has changed or you have a new or updated prayer-list request. (The Usher tracks church attendance and communion participation.)

**GROWING IN WORSHIP:** Parents, please make use of the bulletins available in the Narthex for children aged 5-10, including the bulletins' activities for the whole week!

**LARGER-PRINT/FLOW-THROUGH BINDERS** are available in the Narthex for those who have trouble seeing the smaller-print of the hymnal, those with other special needs who cannot follow the liturgy in the hymnal or handle its weight, and those who are visiting Pilgrim who are not already familiar with liturgical services and/or our hymnal. If you need or otherwise want to use a flow-through and can help minimize paper and copying expenses, a PDF of the flow-through binder's contents is available in the upper-right corner of Pilgrim's homepage, [www.pilgrimlc.org](http://www.pilgrimlc.org), to open on or to download to your electronic device.

**PRAYER REQUEST:** If you have a special petition for the Prayers of the Church, please notify the Usher, Elder on Duty, or Pastor before the service.

**IF A NEED SHOULD ARISE**, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Restrooms are available in the Parish Hall (non-ADA Restrooms are available in the Office Area, one with a change table), and there is a Cry Room (also with a change table) off the south side of the Narthex. Let the Usher or Elder-on-Duty know if you need assistance or supplies.

*Announcements continue on the inside of this insert.*

*Announcements continue from the front of this insert.*

**LAST WEEK:** There were 0 students but 1 teacher prepared for Sunday School; 11 people were present in person for Adult Bible Class, and another 2 participated via Jitsi; 50 were present in person for the Sunday Divine Service (37 communed), and another 4 streamed live via YouTube; 15 people were present in person for Midweek Advent Evening Prayer; and 3 catechumens were present for Thursday-evening catechesis. (Thursday-afternoon catechesis was postponed due to two catechumens' and Pastor Galler's unavailability.)

**THANKS** to all those who attended Pilgrim's float in the Kilgore Christmas Parade and who provided the Chili Supper afterward; to all those caring for the inside and outside of Pilgrim's facilities; to Rev. Adler for the use of his chasubles; to Melody Ford for providing the Soup/Salad Supper before Wednesday's Evening Prayer Service; to Remo Gualtieri and all those helping with the video and audio for classes and services; and to Ellen Menconi for her Church Office work.

**SERVING TODAY:** The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Jeromy McMurray, Elder on Duty; and Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

**LIFE THOUGHTS:** We rejoice that God Himself defends the cause of the poor and needy (Psalm 72:4) and that He does so primarily through us, His saints. We must be careful, however, that we do not fall into self-righteousness and become a pharisaical "brood of vipers" (Matthew 3:7), always pointing out the sins of others, while neglecting our own sin. Instead, as children of Abraham, we are all to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8), remembering that the things of God's Word were "written for our instruction" (Romans 15:4), as well as for the instruction of others and being comforted that our righteousness is by faith.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS:** "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (Matthew 3:1-2). John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus's ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance—for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus trusting we will receive His forgiveness of sins and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

**AS YOU DEPART**, please be mindful of those who are ushered out behind you, who may have difficulty standing and waiting, and so who may need

an open path to the door and to get to their cars quickly. If you stop to talk to someone in the Sanctuary, please keep the aisle as clear as possible, and please delay lengthier conversations with the pastor until after he has greeted everyone. Thank you for your consideration.

**AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX** are hardcopies of Portals of Prayer for January-March 2026; the December edition of Pilgrim's monthly newsletter, *The Pilgrimage*; the larger-print schedule of Daily Bible Reading for December and January; Pastor Galler's recent newspaper columns (including his 11/15 column titled, "You can join the increasing number of adult Bible readers"); the latest issue of *Christian Culture: A printed Magazine for Lutherans* from Luther Classical College; the latest Church Directory (dated 2025/07/01 on goldenrod paper); and Pilgrim's Funeral Planning Worksheet for completing, discussing with Pastor Galler, and filing in the Church Office.

**"THE 15-2 FOLK"** will gather today after the Divine Service in the Great Room of the Parish Hall, for heavy snacking and Cribbage playing. All are welcome to stay for the heavy snacking, even if not staying for the Cribbage playing! If you do not know how to play Cribbage, they will teach you! You can stay also to observe the games or just to visit with those playing.

**STUDY HOURS:** Pastor Galler is usually in his study Tuesdays from 5:00-8:00 p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, and Saturdays Noon to 3:00 p.m. Come for Individual Confession and Absolution (see *Lutheran Service Book* 292-293) or for any other reason. Pastor Galler is also available at other times by appointment at Pilgrim, or he can come to you (email [pastor@pilgrimlc.org](mailto:pastor@pilgrimlc.org) or text/call 903-984-4333). For emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Galler

**ELDERS' MEETING:** Pilgrim's December Elders' Meeting is scheduled for this Tuesday, December 09, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. If you have an item of concern that the Elders should address, please share it with Pastor Galler, your Elder, or one of the other Elders before then. Elders will please come having read and being prepared to discuss Augsburg Confession and Apology Article XIII: Use and Number of Sacraments, *Concordia*, pp.38, 184-186.

**ADVENT MEALS AND SERVICES:** This Wednesday is the second of three Midweek Advent Soup/Salad Suppers, starting at 6:00 p.m., and Midweek Evening Prayer Services, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to those who have volunteered to provide the meals. Pastor Galler is developing the

*Announcements continue from the inside of this insert.*

theme "Angels of Advent" for his midweek sermon series this year, with the second one the angel Gabriel's coming to Mary.

**"ALL THE PROPHETS TESTIFY":** Pilgrim's Midweek Bible Study is on its annual hiatus for Advent and Christmas but will resume on January 7 with Jonah just out of the great fish! Until then, you can catch up with past sessions online at <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/prophets>.

**CATECHESIS:** This Thursday, December 11, Pastor Galler will continue both the youth class starting at 4:15 p.m. via Jitsi and the family class starting at 7:00 p.m. in-person in the Conference Room/Library.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 9:15 a.m. Refreshments; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class ("Romans: The Righteousness of God"); and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service, followed by the annual Pilgrim Christmas Party".

Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-15.

Hymns: LSB 349, 345, 343, 334, 346, and 515.

Prepare yourself for worship in advance by praying about, reading over, and meditating on the appointed Scripture Readings and Hymns.

**PILGRIM'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** is scheduled for next Sunday, December 14, after the Divine Service. Pilgrim's Mary/Martha Society will provide turkey and ham. Please bring a dish to share. There will be a "White Elephant Gift Exchange" for those who bring such gifts and the return from last year of the exciting "Saran-wrap-ball Game".

**PLACING OF THE GREENS:** Please stay after the Divine Service on Sunday, December 21, in order to help decorate the Sanctuary for the Christmas season. Pilgrim's Mary/Martha Society, which would otherwise meet that day, will supply a salad and pizza lunch.

**CAROLS AND CANDLES** service at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 21, at First Presbyterian (815 East Main Street), Kilgore. Organ music usually starts at 4:30 p.m.

**POINSETTIA PICK-UP:** Would you be able to pick up Pilgrim's poinsettias from New Generation Farms just south of Kilgore (10541 US-259) Monday December 22? If so, please speak to Pastor Galler.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF READINGS AND HYMNS** will be Wednesday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. (note the earlier-than-usual time for a midweek service).

*Announcements continue on the back of this insert.*