



Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Corner of Broadway and Florey



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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.

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

2025 DECEMBER 21

+++ IN THE NAME OF JESUS +++

Catechesis	Section 1 The Creed (The First Article)	322
Confession and Absolution	(right column)	151

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Entrance Hymn:	“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates”	341
Kyrie		152-153

(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.)

Salutation and Collect of the Day		156
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Old Testament (& Response):	Isaiah 7:10-17	156
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Psalm: Psalm 24 (antiphon: v. 7)		24
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(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 1:1-7	156
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Alleluia and Verse (Common)		156
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Holy Gospel (& Responses):	Matthew 1:18-25	157
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Hymn of the Day:	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	357
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Sermon	Matthew 1:18-25	
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Nicene Creed		158
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Prayer of the Church, Offering, & Offertory		159-160
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 ... Lord, in your mercy:  **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
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The Words of Our Lord, Proclamation of Christ, (Prayer of Remembrance,) Lord's Prayer, Pax Domini, & Agnus Dei

Distribution (& Distribution Hymns):		164
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“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”	(st.5 on back)	353
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“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”		631
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“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”		620
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Post-Communion Canticle	“Nunc Dimittis”	165
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Post-Communion Collect & Benediction		166
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Closing Hymn:	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	338
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+++ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY +++

LSB 353:5

5. Jesus comes on clouds triumphant
When the heavens shall pass away;
Jesus comes again in glory.
Let us then our homage pay,
Alleluia! ever singing
Till the dawn of endless day.

Text: Public domain.

(On the "accidental omission" of stanza 5 from the pew edition of *LSB*,
see *LSB: Companion to the Hymns*, #353, pp.57, 58.)



***An angel told Joseph
that Mary's Child
was conceived
from the Holy Spirit.***

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 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, 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; 14 people were present in person for Adult Bible Class, and another 1 participated via Jitsi; 37 were present in person for the Sunday Divine Service (31 communed); 16 people were present in person for Midweek Advent Evening Prayer; and 3 catechumens participated live via Jitsi in Thursday-afternoon catechesis. (Thursday-evening catechesis was not held due to the illness of one of the catechumens.)

THANKS to all those caring for the inside and outside of Pilgrim's facilities; to Rev. Adler for the use of his chasubles; to Gayle Gardner for providing the Soup/Salad Supper before Wednesday's Evening Prayer Service; to Remo Gualtieri and Ben Ford, and all those helping with the video and audio for classes and services; to Ellen Menconi for her Church Office work; and to Dawn Shen for the new Advent wreaths on the outside of the Sanctuary's front double doors.

SERVING TODAY: The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Jeromy McMurray, Elder on Duty; and Debbie Shockley, Substitute Organist Service Operator.

LIFE THOUGHTS: The birth of the King of Glory (Psalm 24:7) is surrounded by the messiness of human sin and intrigue (Matthew 1:18-25). As we rejoice that our Lord has taken on our human nature, being "descended from David according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3), we can also rejoice that Jesus has at least potentially sanctified every human life born and lived in circumstances that include sin and pain.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God's law could not do—truly motivate us to truly-good works—the Gospel of Jesus' love has done!

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 Pastor Galler's recent newspaper columns (including his 12/20 column titled, "Behold! Angels announce more than Jesus's birth"); 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; 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.

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

CAROLS AND CANDLES service will be held at 5:00 p.m. today at First Presbyterian (815 East Main Street), Kilgore. Extended pre-service pipe-organ music 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) tomorrow, December 22? If so, please speak to Pastor Galler.

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 or text/call 903-984-4333). For emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Galler

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF READINGS AND HYMNS will be this Wednesday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. (note the earlier-than-usual time for a midweek service). This rare non-communion service at Pilgrim can be for that reason a good one to which to invite family and friends!

CHRISTMAS DAY DIVINE SERVICE will be this Thursday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m. (note the earlier-than-usual time for a morning Divine Service). Celebrate the "Christ Mass" the way that gave it its name!

"LOOSE-CHANGE SUNDAY": Please plan to use the large Mite Box in the Narthex next Sunday, December 28, after the Divine Service, in order

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to contribute your loose change and more, beyond your regular offering, for LWML mites that in part fund District and National mission grants (lists of grant recipients are on the bulletin board above the Mite Box).

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.

Readings: Jer 31:15-17; Ps 54:1-7; Rev 14:1-5; and Mt 2:13-18.

Hymns: LSB 375, 969, 517 (with st.9), 399, 764, and 888.

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

CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS DIVINE SERVICE will be Thursday, January 1, at 10:00 a.m. (note the earlier-than-usual time for a morning Divine Service). Start the new year off right!

COUNCIL REPORTS: Please submit reports for the Fourth Quarter of 2025 and agenda items for the First Quarter Council Meeting to Recording Secretary Rita Whitley by January 4, or as soon as possible, so that the Packet for that Meeting can be distributed and otherwise available before that Meeting on January 25. Thank you!

INSTALLATION OF 2026 COUNCIL AND ELDERS: All those elected for 2026 will be installed Sunday, January 4, during the Divine Service, *in absentia*, if necessary. (The list was published in the November Voters' Packet and will be reprinted on the latest Pilgrim Directory.) Thank you to all those who served in 2025!

"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: On Thursday, January 8, 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.

ELECTRONIC OFFERINGS: Although Pilgrim does not pay to receive electronic offerings, some donors use their financial institution's "bill pay", employer's EFT/ACH (Electronic Funds Transfer/Automatic Clearing House transactions), or Zelle (www.zellepay.com). If you need help setting up an electronic offering, please contact Pilgrim Treasurer Debbie Shockley (by email at treasurer@pilgrimlc.org or voice call/text to 903-922-8209).

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