

✚ SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✚

December 5, 2021



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ NAIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝

1665 South 57th Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

414-545-6925 | www.nainlutheran.org | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Phone: 414-810-3392

Email: revjberg@gmail.com

Organist: Linda Loeffel

Choir Director: Lois Buske

Secretary: Ashley Leyrer

About Our Worship Service

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives us forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same Gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love as you worship with us today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our church. If you have any questions or need any assistance, **please speak with the pastor.**

Our practice of closed communion: If you have not communed with us before, please read the note about our Lord's Supper practices printed later in this bulletin under "Distribution of Holy Communion."

Rest Rooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

Guest book: If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

Mother's Room: Parents with crying children are welcome to use the mother's room, located off of the narthex. The room is equipped with speakers so parents can listen to the service.

Chair Lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

Scripture taken from: the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

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POPULUS ZION
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 5, 2021



The Season of Advent
When the Lord Comes Near

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four-week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high *when the Lord comes near*.

Second Sunday in Advent
When the Lord Comes Near, He Humbles His People

The Second Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as "*Populus Zion*" Sunday. *Populus Zion* means "People of Zion." The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit (opening verses) of the day: "Say to the *daughter of Zion (Populus Zion)*, 'See, your Savior comes!'" (Isaiah 62:11a).

"Daughter of Zion" was a title used to refer to the people of Israel. As the spiritual house of Israel, we too in the New Testament Church look to our coming Savior who comes to us. What a welcome relief to hear what is required to meet him: only repentance. Jesus is not someone we need to impress with our good works. Indeed, repentance is the opposite of work. It is the humble admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by him.

✚ DIVINE SERVICE I ✚

Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service.

Personal prayers for worship are printed on pages 10-11, 134-139, and 156 in the front of the hymnal.

"Understanding Lutheran Worship" provides excellent information about the Lutheran Liturgy, the Christian Church Year, and the Books of the Bible. A copy of the booklet is located in the hymnal rack of each pew.

THE PREPARATION

(Job 11:13-15; Psalm 25; Isaiah 40:3-5; Hebrews 4:16)

OPENING HYMN 13 *"There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying"*

** The hymns are located in the middle to back portion of the red hymnal.*

INVOCATION (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

** Please stand.*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✚ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING VERSICLES

M: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: **on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."** (Isaiah 9:2)

M: John the Baptist called out in the wilderness, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (Matthew 3:2)

C: **"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."** (Matthew 3:3)

M: "Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth." (Luke 3:5)

C: **"And all mankind will see God's salvation."** (Luke 3:6)

CONFESSION OF SINS (1 John 1:8-9)

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

** Please remain silent for reflection on God's Word and for repentant self-examination.*

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

KYRIE – LORD, HAVE MERCY (Mark 10:47; Luke 17:12-13)

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

HOLY ABSOLUTION (John 20:19-23)

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE ADVENT CANDLE (John 8:12; Luke 12:35)

M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

M: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

* For more information about the history and significance of the Advent wreath and candles, please read the notes on the last page of this bulletin.

SONG OF PRAISE 23 v1 "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

* The hymn verse will be preceded by a brief introduction.

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. *Refrain* Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

* Traditionally, the Gloria in Excelsis is not sung during the penitential season of Advent. During this time of preparation, the Church looks forward to the return of the glorious song of the angels on Christmas Day in celebration of God fulfilling his promises in Christ.

SALUTATION (Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Philippians 4:6; Matthew 18:19-20)

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

** Please be seated.*

THE WORD

(Romans 10:17; Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

For more information about today's Scripture readings, the current season of the Church Year, and the words and symbols featured on the paraments, please pick up a copy of "About the Propers," a weekly document explaining the changeable parts of the service. Several copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.

FIRST LESSON Malachi 3:1-7b

Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord humbles his people, purifying our hearts so that we might stand on the Last Day.

** After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 66 page 90 in the front of the hymnal

** The men & boys will sing the first half of the psalm verse; the women & girls will sing the second half. All will join in the refrain and the "Glory be to the Father..."*

SECOND LESSON Philippians 1:3-11

Producing love and humility within us is God's work. He began his good work at our baptism and will carry that work to completion.

** After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY Luke 3:4,6

M: Alleluia. "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation." Alleluia.

GOSPEL OF THE DAY Luke 3:1-6

In grace, God sent his messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare people to meet the Lord.

* *Please stand.*

The pastor processes to the nave floor for the reading of the Gospel, symbolizing Christ's presence among us in his Word.

M: The Holy Gospel for the Second Sunday in Advent, according to St. Luke, chapter three.



* *After the reading of the Gospel:*

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



NICENE CREED (Romans 10:9-10; Philippians 2:10-11)

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

* Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY 16 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

SERMON Luke 3:1-6

“Prepare Your Hearts to Receive Your King”

CREATE IN ME (Psalm 51:10-12)

* Please stand.

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -



* *Please be seated.*

OFFERTORY

* Offering Collection

God, who blesses us with all we have, gives us the privilege of showing him our thanks in many ways. One of these ways is by giving back a portion of what he has given us to support the spread of his Gospel. If you are a guest, please don't feel that you must give an offering. We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' eternal love for you.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation.

* Friendship Registers

A Friendship Register (i.e. the maroon book) is located at the end of each pew. Sometime before you leave, please write in your name and the names of those with you, check any appropriate box, and provide your contact information if you want the pastor to speak with you.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH ADVENT page 123 in the front of the hymnal

* *Please stand at the direction of the pastor.*

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

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.

THE SACRAMENT

(Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11)

Visitors, before approaching the altar, please read the note printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Distribution" so you may be informed about our congregation's Holy Communion practices.

PREFACES

M: The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1; Lamentations 3:41)

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

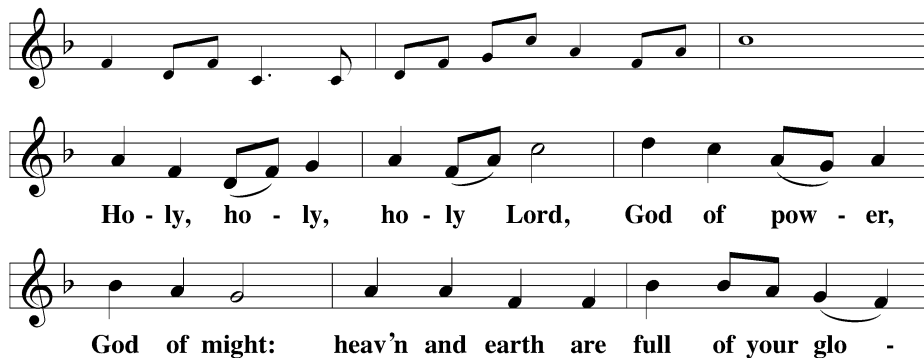
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. (Psalm 107:1; Psalm 136)

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

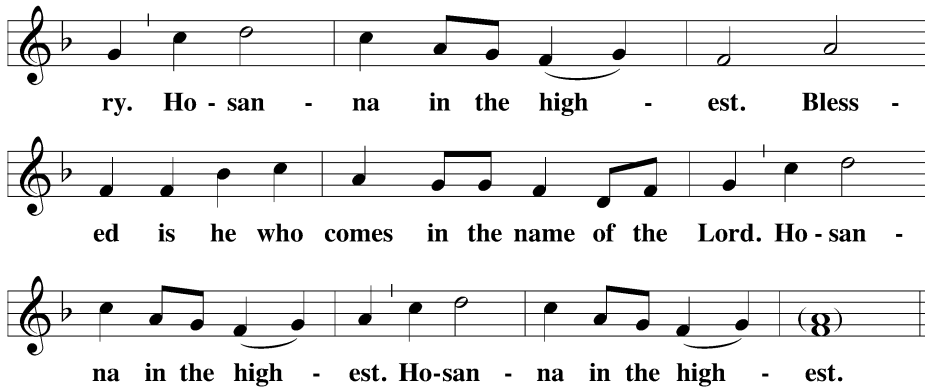
M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

SANCTUS – *HOLY, HOLY, HOLY* (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -



ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -
 ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

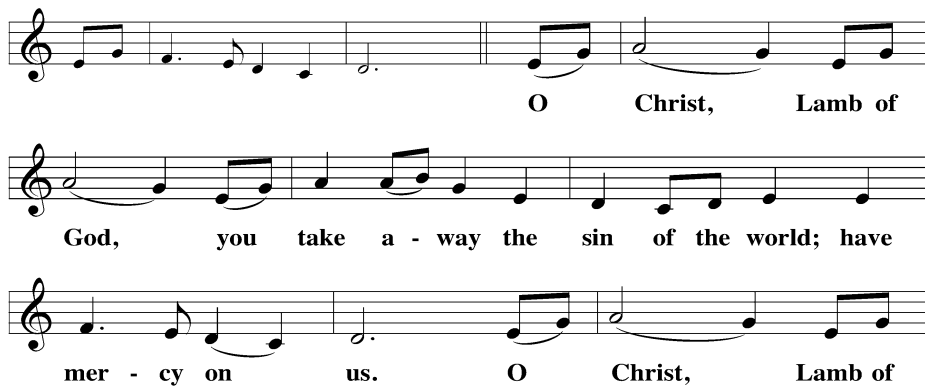
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

PAX DOMINI – THE PEACE OF THE LORD (John 20:19)

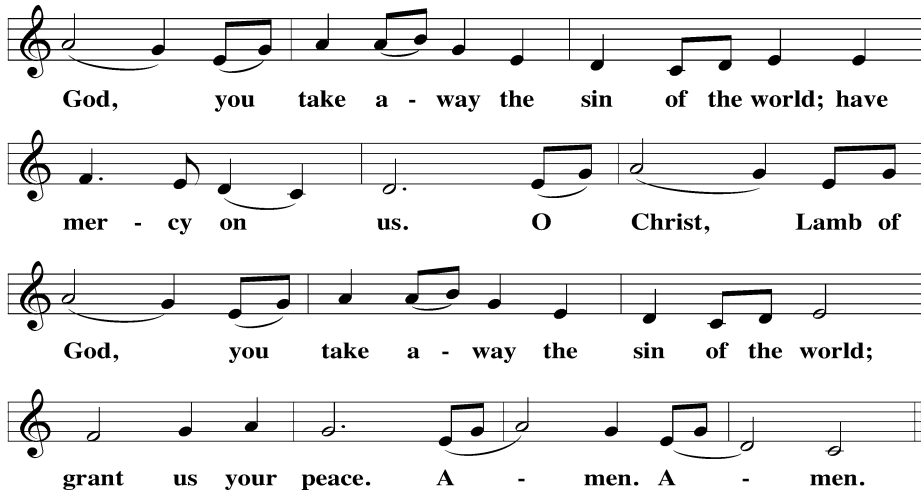
M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI – O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7)



O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

* *Please be seated.*

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION (1 Corinthians 11:26)

* Visitors

Before approaching the altar to receive Holy Communion, please read the following notes:

The Holy Bible teaches the celebration of the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in faith and teaching (to be 'in communion' means to share and hold in common). By eating and drinking at our Lord's Table, we are not only sharing Christ's true Body and Blood, but we are also confessing that we publicly hold in common the same teachings of God's Holy Word.

We therefore invite to Holy Communion only those Christians who share the same teachings to which we hold, all the while recognizing the true spiritual unity and fellowship of all true Christians in God's Holy Christian Church (i.e. the Communion of Saints). Confirmed members of Nain and confirmed visiting members of sister congregations in the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) are welcome to commune.

If you are a member of another Lutheran synod, another Christian denomination, or of another belief, we ask that you refrain from communing with us at this time. We do this out of love and in accordance with God's words through St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11. The Pastor would be happy to speak with you if you have interest in communing in the future or have any other questions or concerns about our practices. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and for respecting our beliefs.

* Communicants

A guide for personal preparation before receiving Holy Communion is found on page 156 in the front of the hymnal. Prayers for before and after Holy Communion are found on page 11.

When the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When the pastor distributes the wine and blood of Christ, he will say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Before consuming the sacramental elements, you may respond to the pastor's words by saying, "Amen"

(which is Hebrew for, "Truly," or "Yes, it is so") as a way to confess your belief that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of your sins.

* Children and Non-Communicants

You are welcome to approach the altar to receive a blessing from the pastor. He will make the sign of the cross on the head of each and say, "The Lord bless you." Non-Communicant adults are asked to cross their arms over their chest to indicate that they don't intend to commune.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

NUNC DIMITTIS – SONG OF SIMEON (Luke 2:29-32)

* Please stand.



The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

In peace, Lord, you let your
ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for
ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

THANKSGIVING (Psalm 118:1)

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper.
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

AARONIC BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

** Please be seated.*

CLOSING HYMN

11 *"Comfort, Comfort All My People"*



*Produce fruit
in keeping
with repentance*

A personal prayer for after worship is printed on page 11 in the front of the hymnal.

Thank you for joining us as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!

Please contact Pastor Berg if you are need of any pastoral care during the week.

Special thanks to: Linda Loeffel for playing organ; Wade Johnston for serving as distribution assistant; Isaiah Johnston for serving as usher; and Ben Leyrer and Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

*All worshipers are encouraged to take home a copy of our **weekly newsletter, the “Nain Messenger”** to stay informed about all congregational news. Several copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.*

“The Congregation at Prayer,” a document offering suggestions for daily devotions and Scripture readings, is posted on our church website.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation.

*Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**.
For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net*

Please join us this Wednesday at 4:00 or 7:00 pm for our midweek Advent service.

We will follow the order of Evening Prayer and hear readings from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians and the Gospel of St. Mark. The 7:00 pm service will be live streamed. Please visit our website to be directed to Nain's YouTube channel.



Advent & Christmas Service Schedule

Please join us for these worship services, as we focus on our Savior's coming to save us from our sins.

First Sunday in Advent	November 28	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Midweek Advent 1	December 1	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Second Sunday in Advent	December 5	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Midweek Advent 2	December 8	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Third Sunday in Advent	December 12	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Midweek Advent 3	December 15	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Fourth Sunday in Advent	December 19	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve	December 24	Friday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day	December 25	Saturday	8:00 am	10:30 am
First Sunday after Christmas	December 26	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Second Sunday after Christmas	January 2	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is believed to have originated in Germany, as a folk custom. The evergreen branches symbolize God's unending love for us, and eternal life found in Christ. The four candles set in the wreath represent the four Sundays in the season of Advent. The lighting of the candles each week in Advent marks the growing anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Various traditions explain the color for the candles.

Some churches use three purple or violet candles on the first, second, and fourth Sundays to remind us that Advent is a season of repentance. Other churches use three blue candles on these Sundays to symbolize our hope and expectation at the coming of Jesus; especially his second coming in glory on the Last Day.

A rose or pink candle is often used on the third Sunday, historically observed as Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday as a reminder that Advent is also a time of joy.

The fifth candle, if used, is white. It is lighted on Christmas Day and symbolizes the perfection and purity of God's gift to sinners: his righteous Son, Jesus Christ.

Some traditions associate a theme with each candle. One tradition is as follows...

The **Prophecy Candle**: Also called the Hope Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming.

The **Bethlehem Candle**: Also called the Peace Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem.

The **Shepherds' Candle**: Also called the Joy Candle, this pink or rose-colored candle symbolizes the coming of the Savior into the hearts and lives of believers, like the shepherds at Jesus' birth.

The **Angels' Candle**: Also called the Good News Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the final glorious coming of the Savior with all his angels on the Last Day.

The **Christ Candle**: This white candle symbolizes the day of Jesus' birth, the coming we've been waiting for, the advent of Jesus, the Light of the World..