



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

December 21st, 2025

4th Sunday in Advent

11721 Morrison Rd. | New Orleans, LA | 70128
Pastor Daniel Kramer | crownoflifepastor@gmail.com
(504)595-0373 | (504)354-1999



Oh, Come Let Us Worship the Lord

GREETING

OPENING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 329

Holy, Holy, Holy

INVOCATION

ENTRY SONG

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.

PASTOR: Let us confess our sins to God.

CONGREGATION: (Psalm 51) Have mercy on me, O God; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Cleanse me and wash me, so that I can be clean in your sight.

We sing:

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry,
While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by,

Chorus: Savior, Savior, Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.

Let me at a throne of mercy Find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition, Help my unbelief.

Chorus

Trusting only in Thy merit, Would I seek Thy face;
Heal my wounded broken spirit, Save me by Thy grace.

Chorus

P: (Isaiah 53) It is my privilege as a called servant of God to declare to you that Jesus Christ was pierced for your transgressions, he was crushed for your iniquities, the punishment that brought you peace was upon him and by his stripes you are forgiven.

We sing:

It Is Well With My Soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

Chorus: It is well (It is well), with my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought:
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Chorus

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test."

¹³ 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?

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

We sing:

I Love To Tell The Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story because I know it's true.
It satisfies my longing as nothing else would do.

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ 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. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ 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.

We sing:

I Love To Tell The Story

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best,
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

BE SEATED

YOUTH MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christian Worship 25

The King Shall Come

SERMON

The Sign No One Asked For

Isaiah 7:10-14

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

African-American Heritage Hymnal 307

His Name is Wonderful

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good and right that we should, at all times and in all places, give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song.

We Sing: *Bless the Lord*

Chorus: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
Bless His holy name! *Repeat*

He has done great things, He has done great things,
He has done great things, bless His holy name!

Chorus

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

FOR ALL OF US: Paul instructed in I Cor. 11:28: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." Questions like these help us examine ourselves:

- Am I sorry for my sin?
- Do I trust that Jesus has lived and died to save me from my sin?
- Do I believe that Jesus's body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?
- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God pleasing life?

WELS and ELS members may come and receive Christ's body and blood. Proceed up the center aisle as directed by the ushers.

FOR OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: *You may find that we regard Holy Communion with much greater seriousness than most churches today. The Bible teaches that communion is, among other things, a public statement of intimate unity and spiritual agreement with a church's teachings. Therefore, if you are unaware or unclear about what we teach and believe, you will want to compare your own beliefs with ours before communing with us. We are eager to establish this fellowship with you and look forward to your inquiry on how to enter into fellowship! Pastor Kramer is happy and ready to speak with you!*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

African-American Hymnal 257

There is a Fountain

THANKSGIVING HYMN

Thank You, Lord

Thank you, Lord, thank You, Lord, thank You, Lord,
I just want to thank You, Lord.

Been so good, been so good, been so good,
I just want to thank You, Lord.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

Christian Worship 21

Hosanna to the Coming Lord

Our focus for 2025–2035

The new long-range strategic plan names four priorities for WELS to focus on for the next ten years. These sweeping areas tackle the challenges the church—and WELS—face today. With the plan's theme, "Christ through us," we are given a powerful reminder—God works through us to carry out his work as his ambassadors.

Culture: *Cultivating a gospel-driven culture*

Congregations: *Strengthening WELS' backbone*

Calling: *Producing workers for a growing harvest*

Commission: *Bringing Christ to the nations*

The call to proclaim God's Word is not limited by geography, culture, or language. The world is in need of good news, a gospel message we have and need to share.

More than 6.5 billion people—over two-thirds of humanity—live in places where the name of Christ is scarcely known. These numbers are not just statistics; they represent individuals, families, and entire communities that have yet to experience the life-changing hope found in the gospel. As part of Christ's church on earth, we believe that God has commissioned us as his ambassadors, sending us out with a purpose: to proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ to every nation under heaven. Through us, Christ reaches the nations.

Reflecting on 175 years of grace-filled ministry in WELS, we are filled with gratitude for the countless lives transformed by the gospel. WELS now has working partnerships with churches and missions in 49 countries around the world.

Yet, the mission is still unfinished. Children are still born in places without a gospel presence. Millions die every year without access to the gospel truth. With renewed urgency and prayerful confidence in Christ, we look to the future, asking God to continue using us to reach lost souls with his Word of salvation.

Borderless support network

The call to share God's Word isn't limited by geography, culture, or language. It is a universal command for every believer and every nation. To

expand the reach of the gospel, we are forging a borderless support network, built on international ministry partnerships. By collaborating with confessional Lutheran church bodies that share doctrinal fellowship with WELS, we multiply our impact exponentially. WELS currently sends 50 missionaries into the world who are joined by more than 400 trained pastors and hundreds of trained leaders. Together, they form a growing confessional Lutheran army committed to reach the lost.

This robust mission collaboration equips pastors and congregations worldwide to thrive as Christ's ambassadors. Together, we share resources, training, and encouragement, fostering a united front in the global mission field. In this network, no congregation or leader stands alone; we support one another to ensure the gospel reaches places we could never go by ourselves.

A global missionary force

Historically, WELS has sent missionaries from the United States to plant the gospel in new lands. This model has borne much fruit, but the present reality demands more workers than ever before. The solution lies in empowering pastors and evangelists from our global sister churches. These leaders are uniquely equipped to bring the gospel to their own people, cultures, and regions.

By investing in their training and spiritual formation, we unlock a boundless missionary force capable of reaching places where outsiders may never have access. We strive to equip these global leaders with the truths of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, ensuring that the message remains pure and carries the power of God's promise. Together, we are building a borderless network of ambassadors who boldly proclaim Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Confessional Lutheran seminaries

A thriving church depends on well-trained shepherds—pastors and leaders who can faithfully proclaim Christ's reconciling love in every context. As the gospel gains ground in new regions, emerging Lutheran church bodies recognize the need for seminaries grounded in the authority of Scripture and the clarity of the Lutheran Confessions.

Our goal is to establish confessional Lutheran seminaries in key global locations. These programs will serve as centers for theological education, nurturing the next generation of pastors and church workers. By

empowering local leaders with sound doctrine and ministry skills, we ensure that God's saving grace is shared faithfully and effectively, tailored to the unique cultural contexts of each nation.

Multi-language mission efforts

The growth of mission churches around the world has created a rich tapestry of languages and cultures within our global fellowship. However, many nations still lack Lutheran resources in their native tongues, limiting access to the gospel's life-changing message.

By producing and translating gospel resources, training materials, and worship aids, we aim to make God's Word accessible to all people, regardless of their language. Trusting the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we provide believers worldwide with communication methods and tools that continue to amaze, but, most important, we provide the gospel.

Missions in high-risk and unreached areas

Despite progress, vast regions of the world remain unreached, places where sharing Christ's love is not only challenging but sometimes dangerous. These high-risk areas require innovative strategies, unwavering courage, and fervent prayer.

Our vision is to pioneer WELS missions in these difficult contexts, working diligently to identify and develop approaches tailored to each unique situation. Whether through covert ministry, digital outreach, or local partnerships, we are committed to preaching the gospel faithfully wherever God opens doors. We know that God is always with us, preparing hearts and granting protection as we carry Christ's message of reconciliation to those who need it most.

As we look ahead, our mission is clear: to bring Christ to the nations with unwavering commitment and compassion. This calling is not reserved for a select few but is the shared responsibility of every believer, congregation, and church body united by Christ in our beloved WELS. With hope, humility, and boldness, we entrust our efforts to the Lord of the harvest, confident that he will accomplish far more than we could ever ask or imagine. This is Christ through us!

Author: Larry Schlomer

<i>Serving at Col:</i>	Today	Next Sunday
Music	Katherine, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Gary, Mike	Bob
Reader	Elijah	Edward (W), Seth (Th), Elijah (Sun)
Altar	Karis	
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Virginia	
Cleaning		
Mowing		

CALENDAR

Wednesday	6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service Youth recitation and music Candlelight service BYOC – Bring Your Own Cookies (and snacks)
Thursday	11:00 AM Christmas Hymns and Songs Service Cookies and drinks afterwards in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Jan 7	7:00 PM Online Bible Class meet.google.com/dpk-rmfe-atx

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget	Projected
Last Week	\$3,363.50	\$2,710.40	124.1%	
December	\$7,175.50	\$11,745.08	61.1%	\$11,223.41
Qtr-to-Date	\$29,895.50	\$35,235.25	84.8%	\$34,031.29
Year-to-Date	\$150,430.57	\$140,941.00	106.7%	\$154,746.83



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*

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