



NORTHDAL E LUTHERAN CHURCH
TAMPA, FL
DECEMBER 13, 2020

Northdale Lutheran Church & Academy

15709 MAPLEDALE BLVD

TAMPA, FL 33624

WWW.NORTHDALELUTHERAN.ORG

CHURCH: 813-930-5280 ACADEMY: 813-961-9195

“WE GROW IN GOD’S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD’S WORD”

The Third Sunday in Advent

Welcome to Northdale Lutheran! We are so glad you are joining us to proclaim what God has done and to sing his praises. Here the Lord also comes to us and strengthens us with his mighty Word. Take a moment to meet and greet those around you! Also:



- ❖ Restrooms are in the entrance and through the nursery hallway.
- ❖ Handicapped accessible restroom facilities are located through the nursery hallway and back in the preschool area.
- ❖ To help keep the sanctuary as a quiet place of worship and meditation and for your convenience, a Quiet Room is available for the whole service for young children in the back of the sanctuary. Please make use of this room if your child becomes loud in worship. ***Please do not leave children unattended in the Quiet Room. We ask that at least one adult be present while children are in this room.***
- ❖ Everything you need for worship is printed in the worship folder.



WORSHIP THEME

Jesus is the Central Focus of our Message.

CALL TO WORSHIP

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THIS SERVICE OFFERS THE CONGREGATION A FORM OF WORSHIP THAT FOCUSES ON THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD. BELIEVERS RESPOND TO THIS DIVINE GIFT WITH PRAYER, PRAISE, AND THANKSGIVING.

OPENING HYMN, CW 15, "HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING"



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is
2 Lo, the Lamb, so long - ex - pect - ed, Comes with
3 That, when next he comes with glo - ry And the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He may shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness; You are chil - dren of the day."
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n,
with his mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 6th century, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: MERTON (87 87) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

M(inister): The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C(ongregation): And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

SONG OF PRAISE



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - men.



THE WORD OF GOD*

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 61:1-3, 10-11

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendor.

¹⁰I delight greatly in the Lord;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

*The Word of God

"The reading of the Lessons is a highlight of a service. The spiritually hungry have come to be fed and nurtured and to drink from the waters of life. Knowing that 'faith comes from hearing the message,' God's people listen intently with attention aroused to be blessed by the hearing of God's Word." Christian Worship Manual

PSALM OF THE DAY, *PSALM 71*

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Psalm tone



In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;^{*}
let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;^{*}
turn your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;^{*}
For you are my rock and my fortress.

Refrain

Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,^{*}
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

Even when I am old and gray,^{*}
do not forsake me, O God,

till I declare your power to the next generation,^{*}
your might to all who are to come.

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

Refrain

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. (NIV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PLEASE STAND

THE GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. (NIV)

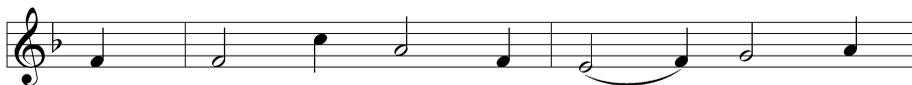
M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



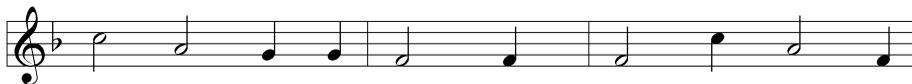
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

SERMON HYMN, CW #14, "ARISE, O CHRISTIAN PEOPLE"



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in -
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

SERMON TEXT: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

SERMON THEME:

Listen to the Voice in the Wilderness

PLEASE STAND

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

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) The members of Northdale Lutheran joyfully give our offerings to the LORD in response to His Word and in thanks for the many ways he has blessed us. We have joined together as a congregation to use these offerings to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world through the work of our Synod. Your gifts moved by the Holy Spirit out love for God and his blessings are welcome.

Online giving is now set up and available through our membership software entitled Breeze. You can give through Breeze two ways: 1) You can give by texting "Give" to (813) 652-0408. 2). You can go to <https://northdale.breezechms.com/give/online>. You can certainly ask if you have any questions.

If electronic giving isn't for you, you are invited to drop off or mail your offerings to the church.

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

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.**

BE SEATED



FINAL HYMN, CW #12, "HARK THE GLAD SOUND! THE SAVIOR COMES"



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
pris - on held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, abr., alt.
Tune: CHESTERFIELD (CM) Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

PLEASE STAND

Announcements:

Christmas Worship Schedule

It is time to once again be thinking about our Christmas worship of our Lord and King. What joyous days of celebration these are for God's people as we ponder God's love in the miracle of Jesus becoming flesh. We invite you and any guests you might want to invite and/or bring to join us for each of these special opportunities to gather before God and worship him for his goodness in sending Jesus to be our Savior. Our Christmas Worship is as follows:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Thursday, December 24, 6:30 PM

Christmas Day Festival Service: Friday, December 25 10:00 AM

Academy Christmas

Our Northdale Christian Academy students will be sharing the joy of Christmas with two events this year. Grades 3-8 will have a children's Christmas service on Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 PM. VPK through grade 2 will have a program on Friday, December 18 at 10:30 AM. Both events are capacity limited (two visitors per student) and will be live streamed on our YouTube channel. Please join us online as our NCA students share what they have learned.

Pastor Guse

It was announced last week that Pastor Matthew Guse has accepted our call to serve as our next shepherd. He and his wife, Elizabeth, will be transitioning from Fond du Lac, WI to Northdale next month. We look forward to welcoming them into our Northdale family. More details will be shared regarding arrival and installation as they become available.

Vacancy Pastor

We thank Pastor Werner for serving us with God's Word in Worship and Bible class today. Pastor Joel Schwartz from Peace in Trinity, FL is serving us as our coordinating vacancy pastor. We work with him to plan Sunday preachers and meet other pastoral needs of our congregation during this vacancy. Pastor Schwartz can be reached at the contact information below should you be in need of his assistance. pastorofpeace@hotmail.com Mobile: 727-938-6321

Fall Food Drive Our annual Fall Food Drive is underway and will continue through December 18. Every year at this time, we gather food to donate to Metropolitan Ministries to help feed those less fortunate than us. This is a great way for us to put our faith into action and to use what God has given us to his glory and to serve others. While we are not big enough here to host our own pantry, we collect food so that we can direct those who are needy to Metropolitan ministries to receive the physical help that they need. Please purchase and bring in non-perishable food items.

Face Coverings for Worship

Last month the Ministry Leadership Team decided face coverings are required for the 8:00 AM service and Bible class at 9:25 AM. This requirement went into effect August 9. Children 7 years old and under are not required to wear face coverings. Face coverings will continue to be encouraged, but not required, for the 10:30 AM service. NLC will have disposable masks available for those who do not have their own. It is the intent of the MLT that this change would remove barriers which may exist for those who feel strongly about wearing masks while also

presenting options for those who feel differently. We want our people to feel comfortable and safe while worshipping online or in-person.

Called Staff

Vacancy Pastor Joel Schwartz:	727-938-6321	pastorofpeace@hotmail.com
Principal Dane Mattes:	920-588-7599	Dane.Mattes@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Aimee Hardman:	813-464-5113	Aimee.Hardman@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Christopher Haring:	517-202-7283	Chris.Haring@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Ethan Jaeger:	605-520-6412	Ethan.Jaeger@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Joanne Mattes:	920-588-7596	Joanne.Mattes@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Bethany Schwartz:	920-222-9279	Bethany.Schwartz@NorthdaleLutheran.org

This Week:

Monday (12/14): 6:30 PM - SMB Meeting
Sunday (12/20): 8:00 & 10:30 AM - Worship
9:25 AM - Adult Bible Study

Serving Today

Music: 8:00 - Chris Haring
10:30 - Aiden Berg
Acolyte: 10:30—Aryssa Kingsborough
Elder: David Mosakowski

Serving Next Week

Music: 8:00 - Dane Mattes
Acolyte: 10:30—Noah Raines
Elder: David Mosakowski

Attendance Last Week

8:00 a.m. — 19
10:30 a.m.—56
Total: 75
Yearly Average: 95
% of Members in Worship: 39%

2020-2021 Year to Date Offerings Through November 30, 2020

General Offering Received: \$79,084

General Offering Budgeted: \$100,000

Ahead of (Short) Year to Date: (\$20,915.84)

Average Weekly Offerings Received (22 weeks): \$3,595

Average Weekly Offerings Budgeted (22 weeks): \$4,545

Building Our Faith ~ Family ~ Future

Total Gifts Pledged to the Project: \$370,000.00

Received Last Week: \$375.00

Total received to date: \$368,804.42



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

Kids Page

The *LIGHT* shines in
the darkness and
the *darkness*
has *NOT* overcome it.

John 1:5

