



NORTHDAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



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”

Meaning of the Advent Wreath - “Advent” means *Coming*

For centuries the Christian Church has made use of the Advent wreath during the four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas Eve. The Advent wreath as a whole reminds us of the immortality of our souls and God’s promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

During each Sunday of Advent, one candle is lit as it draws our attention to theme of that Advent week. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, each with their own significance.



1st Sunday in Advent – “The Watch Candle” (*Blue*)

The Christ Child who first came in humility at Christmas will one day come again in glory at the end of the age. And so we watch for the coming of that day.

2nd Sunday in Advent – “The Prepare Candle” (*Blue*)

Just as John the Baptist came preaching a message of repentance, so also we prepare our hearts with repentance for the birth of our Savior.

3rd Sunday in Advent – “The Proclaim Candle” (*Pink*)

Just as the angels proclaimed the news of Christ’s birth on that first Christmas Eve, so also we continue to proclaim the salvation of Christ to the ends of the earth.

4th Sunday in Advent – “The Behold Candle” (*Blue*)

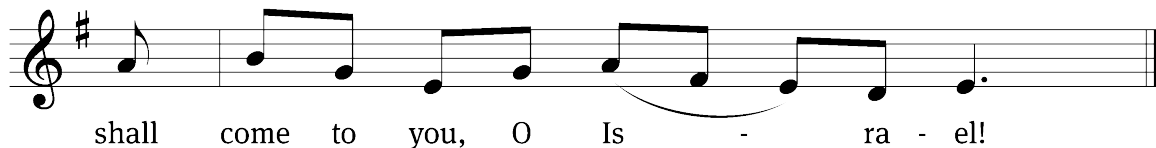
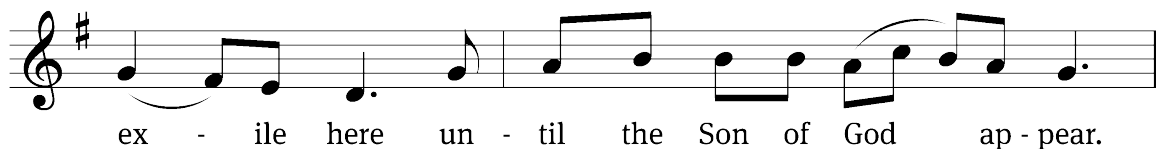
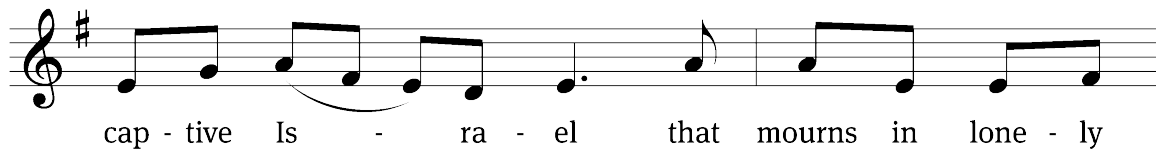
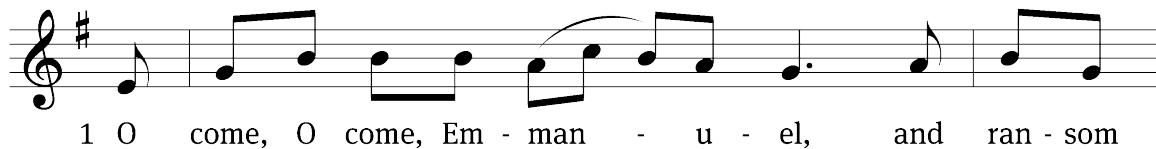
Just as the Virgin Mary beheld the face of the Christ Child, so also we gaze into the manger to behold the face of the Christ Child’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

Christmas Eve – “The Christ Child Candle” (*White*)

The final candle lit on Christmas Eve, as we rejoice in the night our Savior is born.

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn, CW #327 “Oh, Come, Oh Come Emmanuel”



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent., alt

Text and tune: Public domain

Advent Gathering

- 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.**

The lighting of the 2nd Advent candle

2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from

Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your

peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Advent Confession and Absolution

M: Dear people of God, in the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to once again hear the glorious message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child, Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly celebration of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us set our hearts and minds on our repentance before God, and confess our sins for which the Christ Child was born to be our Savior.

**C: Dear Lord Jesus, it was because of your great mercy and love for us, that you were born this Christmas season.
It is our innate sinfulness that demanded your perfect birth.
It is our daily failures that demanded your perfect life.
It is our deserved damnation that demanded your perfect death.
In the humbleness of your birth, you became our sacrifice for sin. May we gaze upon the manger this Christmas season to see the face of our only Savior and Savior of all.**

M: On that first Christmas Eve the angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Indeed this day, the Lord's favor rests upon you. For the Christ Child born to die, has now become our risen and ever-living Lord through his resurrection from the dead. Death is defeated and you are forgiven. In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.



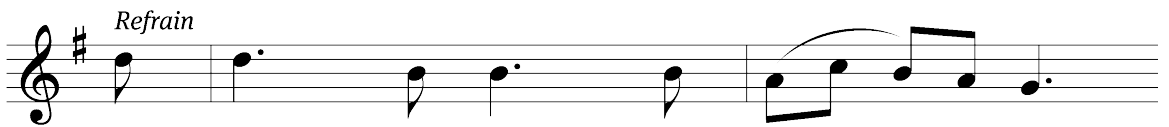
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ows put to flight.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent., alt

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

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.

The Word of God

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah encouraged God's people to be prepared for the coming of the Christ. He looks to the time when the promised Savior would come bringing peace and comfort to his people, and yet justice upon the ungodly.

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

³and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

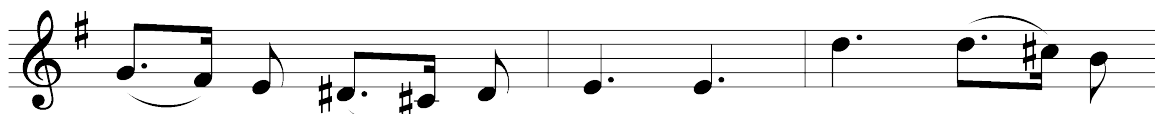
Hymn CW #344 "What Child Is This"



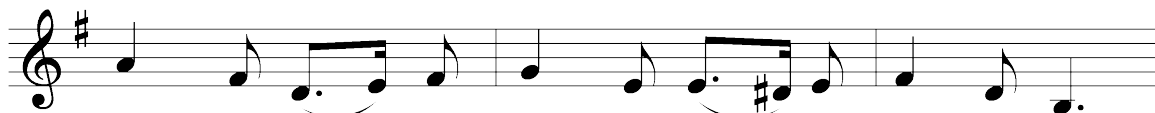
1 What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while
own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Children's Devotion

At this time, we invite all our young people to come forward to hear a special message prepared just for them.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-13

As we look forward to the coming of the Lord, we are encouraged to live in peace and unity building each other up in faith, so we are prepared for the day of salvation. On that day God's people will rejoice with songs of praise, and God will delight over his people.

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name.”

¹⁰Again, it says, “Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again, Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hymn CW #316 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
up to fall no more; O make your face on
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Prepare for Christmas!

- 1) Prepare with repentance
- 2) Prepare with joy

Magnificat

After the angel Gabriel announced to Mary she would give birth to who would be the Savior of the world, Mary burst forth in a song of praise. “Magnificat” means to “Magnify” or “Give greatest praise.” In response to the Word of God this Advent season, we also sing Mary’s song of greatest praise.

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-
joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor
on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions
will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great
things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on
those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.

He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the
proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y
from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.
He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich
he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the
help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his
prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,
to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert

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Confession of the 2nd Article and its Meaning

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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

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 the many ways he has blessed us. 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>.

Sacrament Of The Lord's Supper

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. It is in the joy of knowing the forgiveness we have in Christ, that we prepare to receive in this holy sacrament, receiving Christ's very body and blood in this bread and wine for the assurance of our forgiveness and for the strengthening of our faith. May we come forward with hearts filled with the comfort of your promises, guided by these words from the psalms....

M: Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being praise his holy name.

C: Praise the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all his benefits.

M: Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

C: Who redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with love and compassion.

M: As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on all those who fear him;

C: From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children.

M: The Lord has established his throne in heaven,

C: And his kingdom rules over all. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

Words of Institution

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."

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

DISTRIBUTION

(The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.)

GUESTS: SO THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE SPEAK WITH THE PASTOR BEFORE COMMUNING WITH US.

Hymn CW #302 "Prepare the Royal Highway"



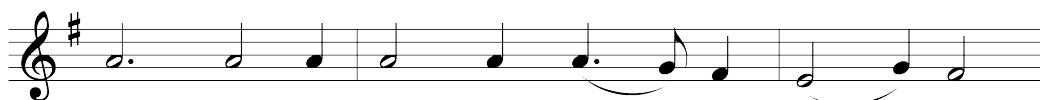
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a
King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of
gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not
jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho-san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

Prayer of the Church

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. Amen.

Final Blessing

Hymn CW #302 "Prepare the Royal Highway"



3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



trib - ute too should bring. All lands, bow down be -
jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



fore him! All na - tions, now a - dore him!
sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

Announcements:

Advent Worship

Join us Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30 pm for a special mid-week Advent worship. After the service we will be having a “*Cookie Share*” so bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share for a time of gathering.

Poinsettia Plants for Christmas Eve!

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant in honor/memorial of a loved one or donate a poinsettia plant to beautify our Christmas Eve service, there are envelopes to be filled out on the back table. The cost of each plant is \$10. All envelopes need to be in by December 18th.

White Elephant!

Ready for a Christmas Party! Our Northdale White Elephant party will be on Sunday, December 11th at 11:30am. There will be food, auctions, gifts, and friends! Who will be the lucky winner this year of the “White Elephant” prize? Could be you! The dinner is a potluck dinner. Everyone who is planning to attend is asked to bring a main dish and either a side or a dessert. We also ask that you bring a wrapped gift for the auction. We auction the gifts blindly not knowing what is inside. It is a lot of fun and raises money for our Women of Northdale.

Christmas Season Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 7	Advent Worship 6:30pm & Cookie Share after service.
Sunday, Dec. 11	Congregation White Elephant Party 11:30am
Tuesday, Dec. 20	NCA Grades 3-8 Christmas Program 6:30pm
Wednesday, Dec. 21	NCA PreK - Grade 2 Christmas Program 11:00am
Saturday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00pm & 7:00pm
Sunday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day Worship 8:30am & 10:30am

Christmas Choir Practice

We are putting together a choir to sing a couple of easy anthems on Christmas Eve. So everyone is welcome to join our group. To make it easier, we are holding practice after late service on December 4, 11, and 18. Practices should only be about 20 minutes. If you have a voice, you can sing! Love to have you!

Want Financial Peace?

Everybody does! Financial Peace is a Bible based principal way of dealing with God's gift of wealth and possessions. We all wish we had more money, could get on a path for getting out of debt, have more money vacations, retirement, and kingdom work. This course will help you get on a road to financial stability, get out of debt, and manage your wealth for the present and future. This course has been utilized by over 1.5 million families who have gained financial wisdom and changed their lives. Financial Peace is **beginning on Sunday, January 22nd at 5:00pm**. The course will then continue on Sunday nights at 5:00pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the back entryway table - WE SHOULD ALL SIGN UP TODAY! More details will be coming in the weeks ahead, but make a commitment for yourselves and for your family. Talk with Pastor Guse for more information.

Called Workers:

Pastor Matthew Guse:	920-517-9000 Pastor@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Principal Dane Mattes:	920-588-7599 Dane.Mattes@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Aimee Hardman:	813-464-5113 Aimee.Hardman@NorthdaleLutheran.org
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Elizabeth Guse:	760-622-2161 Elizabeth.Guse@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Daniel Roemhildt:	507-469-3063 Daniel.Roemhildt@NorthdaleLutheran.org

2022-2023 Year to Date Offerings Through October 2022

General Offering Received: \$ 78,806.55

General Offering Budgeted: \$ 85,733.32

Ahead or (Short) Year to Date: (-6,926.77)

Average Weekly Offerings Received (18 weeks): \$ 4,378

Average Weekly Offerings Budgeted (52 weeks): \$ 5,000