



NORTHDAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Northdale Lutheran Church & Academy

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TAMPA, FL 33624

WWW.NORTHDALELUTHERAN.ORG

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“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*)

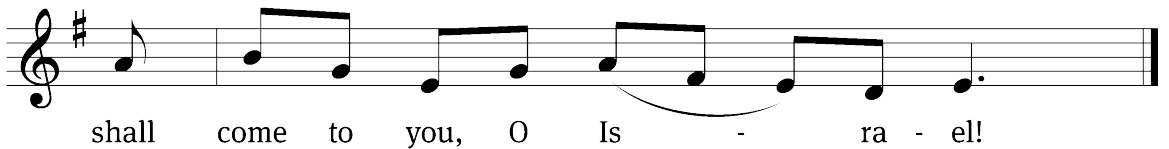
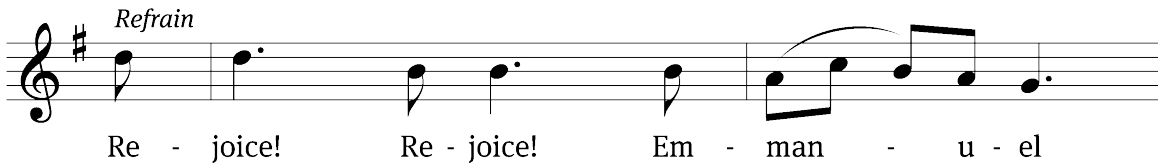
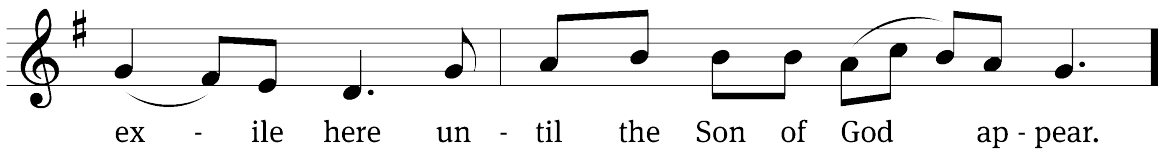
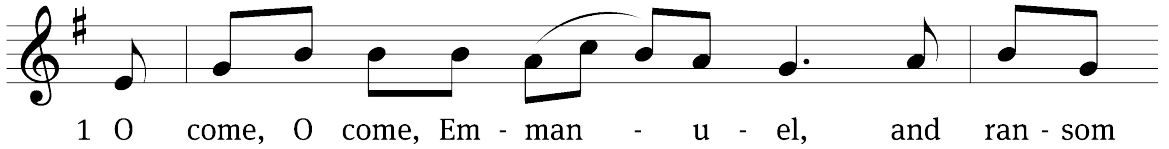
Just as the Virgin Mary beheld the face of the Christ Child, so also we gaze into the manger to behold the face of the Christ Child’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

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"



Advent Gathering

M: We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

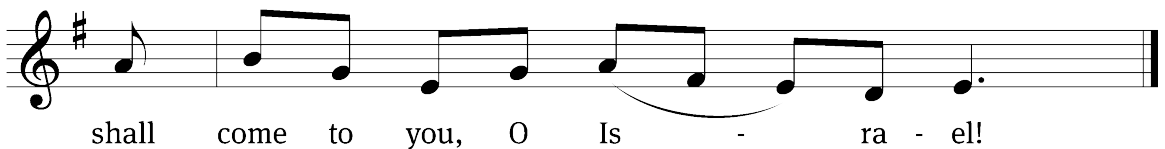
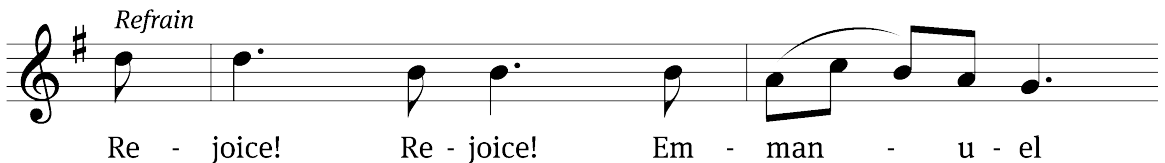
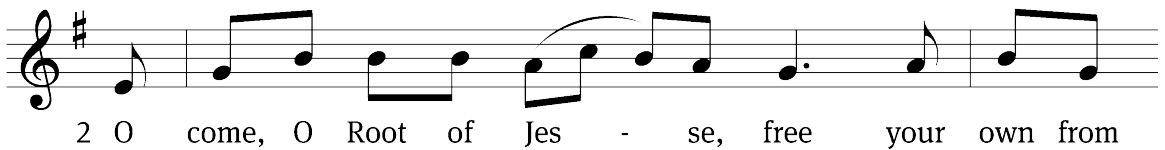
M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

The lighting of the 4th Advent candle



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.

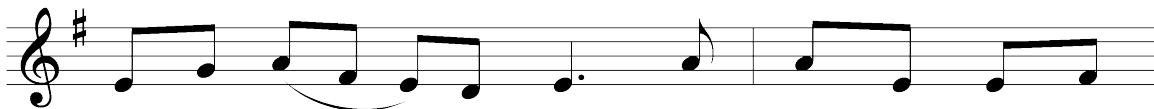
But first, let us set our hearts and minds on our repentance before God, and confess our sins for which the Christ Child was born to be our Savior.

**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.



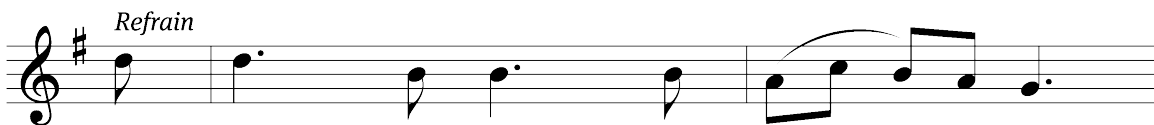
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



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 Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent., alt

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Word of God

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-14

When the nation of Assyria threatened to attack, King Ahaz of Judah refused to turn to the Lord. Even when the prophet Isaiah told King Ahaz to ask for a sign from the Lord, King Ahaz still refused. It was then Isaiah proclaimed the power of God in the greatest sign that would ever be given. Isaiah proclaims the miracle of a virgin birth, a sign that would be ultimately fulfilled when the Virgin Mary would give birth to the Christ Child.

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

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

¹³Then 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?

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

Hymn, CW #346 "Angels We Have Heard On High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



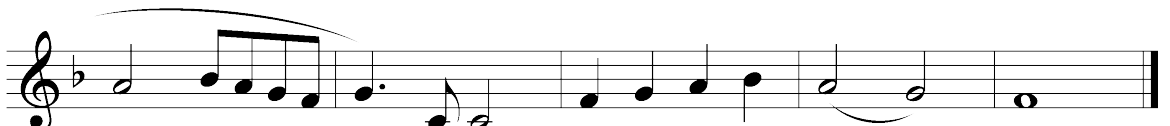
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Second Reading Matthew 1:18-25

The prophecy of the virgin birth once spoken to King Ahaz is now brought to fulfillment, as an angel from the Lord reveals to Joseph God's plan of salvation through this most special conception and birth.

¹⁸This 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. ¹⁹Because 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.

²⁰But 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. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All 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").

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

Hymn CW #328 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"



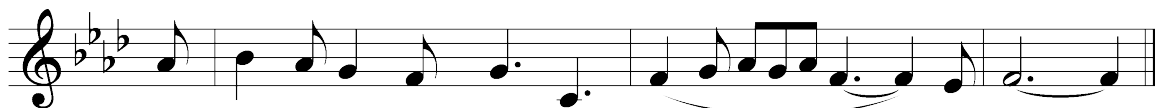
1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:
a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.
"To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,
Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,



"most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

Sermon Text: Romans 1:1–7

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

⁷To 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.

Recognize Your Advent Lord

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."

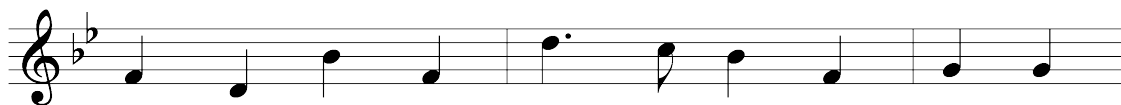
M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

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 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
o'er your flocks by night, God with us is
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever Amen.

Final Blessing

Hymn CW #302 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"



4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Announcements:

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.

Christmas Season Schedule

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. Today we will be having practice after late service. Practice 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
Elizabeth Guse: 760-622-2161 Elizabeth.Guse@NorthdaleLutheran.org
Aimee Hardman: 813-464-5113 Aimee.Hardman@NorthdaleLutheran.org
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Mary Mosakowski: 813-362-2492 Mary.Mosakowski@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