



BIBLE SONGS *of* **CHRISTMAS**

Midweek Advent 3

The Song of the Angels
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
December 17, 2025

Welcome!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. We hope that you will join us again soon.

For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Children's worship notes** are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil.



If there is any other way in which we can assist you, let us know.

The service is streamed live online at elctempe.org/worship.

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit elctempe.org.



Connection card

*During the offering
we ask that you
complete an online
connection card.*

Midweek Advent 3 — December 17, 2025

Bible Songs of Christmas: The Song of the Angels

When the Bible was translated into Latin, “Gloria in excelsis Deo” were the first words of the song that the angels sang to the shepherds at Jesus’ birth. We sing those words in English in our liturgy: “Glory be to God on high.” The Song of the Angels is a compact, joyful proclamation of God’s glory, mercy, and salvation, centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The “Gloria” simply praises God the Father, acknowledging his glory and the peace given to those favored by his grace. It keeps in mind that Christ, God’s only Son, will take away the sin of the world.

In Lutheran theology, the “Gloria” is a response of faith to God’s saving work, rejoicing in justification by grace through faith. It is not just praise but proclamation: Christ has come, and in him we have peace with God.

Service of Evening Prayer

Pre-Service Christmas singalong



Pre-Service Music

Opening Hymn

336 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Psalm

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,
because my soul has taken refuge in you.

I call to God Most High,
to God, who completes his plans for me.

He will send from heaven, and he will save me.
He puts to shame the one who pants as he pursues me.
God will send his mercy and his faithfulness.

Be exalted above the heavens, O God.
May your glory be over all the earth.

Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.
I will give thanks to you among the peoples, O Lord,
I will make music to you among the nations.

Because your great mercy reaches above the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the skies.

Be exalted above the heavens, O God.
Let your glory be over all the earth.

Our evening Advent services use a simplified order of worship that includes singing, a psalm, Scripture lessons, and a devotional message. Our goal this evening is to escape the hurried frenzy of the world around us and to retreat into a sanctuary where we find peace and rest with God.

Psalm 57

*During our services, the congregation speaks the responses in **bold**.*

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

Gospel

Luke 2:8-14

*The angels proclaim
the Good News of the
Savior's birth to
shepherds out in the
fields nearby.*

⁸ There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹ Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

339 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Sermon

Luke 2:8-14

Glory to God in the highest!

Please stand.

Song of the Angels

Gloria
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.



Text and tune: Public domain

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.

Offering

Musical Offering

Evening Prayer

Luther's Small Catechism

In the name of God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Closing hymn

785 Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

Stanzas 1, 3

Joyous light of heavenly glory, loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race.
Now as evening falls around us we shall raise our songs to you,
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

Post-Service Music

Serving at Worship

Minister

Piano

Instrumentalists (6:30 p.m.)

Pastor Dan Pautz

Kurt Rosenbaum

Barb Andrews, *flute*

Eli Gruman, *piano*

Noah Gruman, *organ*

Chris Wempner, Charlie Meyer

Chris Wempner

Video streamer and slides

Video captions

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Lois Henderson – Home recovering from illness.
- Cameron Lee – At Dignity Rehab in Chandler.
- Seth Meyer – Back home in Arizona to continue his accident recovery.
- Family of Alexis Naumann – Alexis was taken to heaven on December 12.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatment for cancer.

Ushers

3:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Matt Heyn

Noah Gruman, Henry Krup



*Emmanuel usher
sign-up.*

This week at Emmanuel

Wednesday

Midweek Advent services	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Midweek Advent meal in the MEC	4:30-6:30 p.m.
Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.

Thursday

Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>	
<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
ELS Winter music recital	1:00-2:30 p.m.
God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>

Friday

ELS Chapel	8:30 a.m.
ELS early release	12:00 p.m.
Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas concert	7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.

Looking ahead

December 22 – January 2	ELS Christmas Break	No school
December 24	Christmas Eve	
	Wednesday Bible study	No class
	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight services	6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice
December 25	Christmas Day	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study	No class
	Christmas Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class
	Bible Basics in the MEC	No class
December 28	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Public School Catechism	No class
December 31	New Year's Eve	
	Wednesday Bible study	No class
	New Year's Eve worship service	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice

Notes and News



Connection cards

The connection cards have a valuable purpose in helping us serve you better. We ask all our worshipers to help us serve you by scanning the QR code, by going to elctempe.org/connect, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

Connection card

During the offering we ask that you complete an online connection card.

Final Midweek Advent meal this evening

Advent is a time of preparation for Jesus' birth. To prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus, for the first three Wednesdays in December, we have gathered together for midweek Advent worship services. Our midweek Advent theme has been *Bible Songs of Christmas*. We hope you have enjoyed joining in the pre-service singalong of your favorite Christmas hymns and carols. We pray you were able to escape the rush and hurry of the commercialized pre-Christmas season, and quiet your heart in repentance, contemplation, and worship of Jesus, the true Reason for the Season.

Please join us this evening between the afternoon and evening services when we'll gather in the MEC for an Advent meal.

Wednesday, December 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

We are asking people to please bring a crockpot of soup, crackers, bread rolls, fruit, veggies, or dessert to share.

Help needed and Meal Train for the Rognholt family

Let's show our support for the Rognholt family as they welcome their two newest blessings. Luke and Jayme are in need of assistance with the twins a few hours during the week when Luke is working. If you are able to help, please contact Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243 or Luke Rognholt at (623) 476-6604. Also, any home-cooked meals or take out/delivery would be much appreciated. You can sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link: <http://mealtrain.com/0dvw54>.



*Rognholt
Meal Train*

Prayers and gift cards for Kaylee and family

Kaylee, a fifth-grader at our Emmanuel Lutheran School, has been diagnosed with cancer and begun chemotherapy treatments. We keep Kaylee and her family in our prayers.

Our Emmanuel family has an opportunity to assist and support Kaylee's family by giving a gift card to help with meals and groceries. Some of the family's preferred locations are Panera Bread, Salad-and-Go, Chick-fil-A, and Fry's. If you wish to give a gift card, you can drop it off in the church or school offices and it will be delivered to the family. An easy way to purchase gifts cards is by purchasing them from Emmanuel's RaiseRight coordinators, John and Jean Mueller, on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the MEC or visit our webpage at elctempe.org/raiseright to learn more.

RaiseRight gift card program

Giving gift cards for Christmas this year? Purchase them from our RaiseRight program!

Our RaiseRight Coordinator, John Mueller, is excited to assist you in ordering gift cards. Purchasing RaiseRight gift cards raises funds for students' tuition accounts at our Arizona WELS schools, the Arizona Lutheran tuition assistance fund, and our congregations and schools. You can order your RaiseRight through the Arizona Lutheran office (RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org) or order at any time through RaiseRight.com. You will need the Enrollment Code, which can be provided by contacting John Mueller (RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org), and then enroll to start earning. Orders are placed twice a month, with deadlines of 8:00 a.m. on the 15th and the last day of the month. Visit our webpage at elctempe.org/raiserright to learn more.

Please note, for physical cards, be sure to place your order before December 15 to receive cards before Christmas. You can always purchase and print e-cards from your computer or smartphone via the [RaiseRight mobile app](#).

Christmas cards

Women of the Word (WOW) have boxed and a few individual Christmas Cards for sale in the MEC. All money from the purchases will go to Our Savior's Lutheran School in Peridot, Arizona, for their teachers' "Wish List." Please give your donation (if a check, make payable to "Ladies Group") to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger or Rachel Severeid.

Christmas celebration at Emmanuel

You can find more information at elctempe.org/Christmas.

- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Lessons and Carols, at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Candlelight services, at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day worship, at 9:00 a.m.

We will also give thanks to the Lord for another year of his grace at our **New Year's Eve** worship with Holy Communion:

- Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Our celebration of the Christmas season culminates with our special worship for the **Festival of the Epiphany** at a special candlelight service.

- Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.


New YouTube channel

Take a moment to check out our new YouTube channel. Go to [YouTube](#) and search for [@ELSVideostreaming](#), and subscribe today. All upcoming services will be found on our new channel. Looking for a recent live stream? All past live streams are also available on the new channel starting with the first Sunday in Advent (November 30). Our previous channel will become inactive as of January 1, 2026.

There are a few ways to get to our new channel:

Channel name: Emmanuel Lutheran Video Stream

Direct link: elctempe.org/youtube

Click on the YouTube logo  found on the bottom of our church website

Door-to-Door witnessing to the LDS of the East Valley

Heritage Lutheran Church, along with Truth in Love Ministry (tilm.org) and students from Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will be witnessing door-to-door to the LDS of the East Valley from January 4-11. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please call the Heritage church office at 480-855-3619 or send an email to office@heritagelutheran.com.

Men of His Word Conference 2026 | January 31

Registration is open for the Men of His Word (MOHW) Conference, to be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Desert Willow Conference Center (48th Street and Broadway in Phoenix). Register and purchase your early bird ticket now for \$100; students \$50. The cost will increase to \$125 after the first of the year.

The Men of His Word Conference is a gathering for godly men to be encouraged by one another and to grow together in faith through worship and Bible study. This year's theme is "Courage Under Fire." Pastor Jeff Gunn will be the keynote speaker at the conference, and there are also many breakout groups for learning and discussion. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included. Visit www.menofhisword.org for more information and to register.

Men of His Word Conference Scholarship

Through a generous donation, men from Emmanuel who sign up for the conference will receive a \$50 cash-back scholarship. Only 40 scholarships are available. Register now and pay the registration fee, and once you have attended the event in January, you will receive a \$50 reimbursement. (Students who register before December 31, and receive the scholarship, will end up attending for free!) Gentlemen, take advantage of this opportunity to attend this excellent conference with your brothers in Christ. Those interested in receiving a scholarship can sign up [here](#) or use the provided QR code.



*Men of His Word
scholarship sign-up*



About Us

Emmanuel Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus and the truth of his saving Word with the people in our church, our community and the world.

The objectives of our mission are:

- To **preach**, by proclaiming the Word of God, as we worship and praise God in a loving Christian atmosphere;
- To **teach**, by fostering an ongoing increase in knowledge and maturity in God's Word;
- To **reach**, by sharing the Gospel of God's Word with all people, and to do so;
- By **each** member actively participating in our ministry.

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Pastor Jon D. Buchholz

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran

Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

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