# Sunday Worship Service – November 29, 2026

Worship words from *A Thill of Hope* [1] marked with *

Other material from various sources as indicated in the footnotes.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**A Moment of Reflection**

**Call to Worship** *

Come, listen.
**A thrill of hope is calling.**
Come, rejoice.
**A weary world is healing.**
Come, watch.
**A bright star is shining.**
Come, worship.
**The Messiah is coming.**

**Opening Prayer**

God of hope, we gather together in this space to encounter you, to encounter the holy saving grace of the Messiah. As we enter this time, we acknowledge all we bring with us: fear, worry, exhaustion, expectation, longing, and we listen for your call to be on guard, to be alert, to watch and wait.

The psalmist says, "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." May our focus, our presence, and our attention be on your shining face this day as we sing, pray, and reflect in community. And may the thrill of hope far surpass our worry or fear. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus?"* #254**

1. **Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;**
   **from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**
   **Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,**
   **dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
2. **Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;**
   **born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.**
   **By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;**
   **by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

[1] *A Thrill of Hope* © 2026 Illustrated Ministry, 829 Wisconsin Ave., Racine, WI

**Advent Candle Lighting** *

In the midst of busyness, bustling, and buzzing, we pause to breathe and release our burdens. We surround ourselves with candles, lights, greenery, and beauty. May these sights and sounds remind us that we are people of faith, guided by the light of the world. Listen for words of hope on this First Sunday of Advent.

*Brief pause for silence.*

It is difficult to gather in this place without acknowledging the hurt all around us.
There are unjust systems and harmful powers in place that diminish life.
**What can we do? Where is our hope?**
Be alert. Pay attention. There are whispers of hope all around you:
in a meal delivered, a hand extended, forgiveness granted.
As we live between the already and the not yet, we remember salvation doesn't happen when all is right in the world.
The Messiah draws near now, breaking into the present through moments of compassion and flourishing.
In this season of holy waiting and wholly longing, we light the candle of hope.

*Light the first candle.*

Saying goodbye to the powers that harm and welcoming the coming of Christ.
**May the hope of God-with-us thrill and inspire.**

**Advent Hymn *"We Are a People of Hope"*** [2] (verse 1)

**We are a people of hope;**
**we are a people of hope.**
**Lighting a candle, we wait for the dawn;**
**we are a people of hope.**

**Call & Prayer of Confession** *

Our hearts cry out for restoration.
Our spirits plead for illumination.
Let us come before God in confession and in trust.
Our salvation is near.

Before God and one another,
**we confess our love for power and control**
**that separates us from one another and from you, O God.**

[2] Words and music by Barbara Hamm © 2009 Hope Publishing Company.

**We cling tightly to wealth because we fear vulnerability.**
**We insist on our own way because we fear change.**
**We reject love and salvation**
**when they come to us from outside our comfort zone.**
**We follow our own paths instead of your own faithful leading.**
**Forgive us through your endless grace and guide us into your truth.**
**Lead us by the mercy of Jesus, who is our way and our life. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** *

From the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven,
so great is God's mercy for us.
You are forgiven, and you are held by a love that will never pass away.
Receive this good news in the name of Christ.
**Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise *"Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God"* #458**

1. **Praise and thanksgiving be to God our maker,**
   **source of all blessing, prodigal creator.**
   **Baptized and made your own, now we come before you,**
   **while we adore you.**
2. **Not our own holiness, nor that we have striven**
   **brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have given.**
   **Baptized and set apart, strengthen us, O Savior,**
   **with grace and favor.**
3. **Come, Holy Spirit, come in visitation;**
   **you are the truth, our hope, and our salvation.**
   **Baptize with joy and pow'r, give, O Dove descending,**
   **life never ending.**
4. **Praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:**
   **one Lord, one faith, one source of ev'ry merit.**
   **Here now renew your church through this symbol given;**
   **grant peace from heaven.**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Let us celebrate God's gift of grace given to us in the sacrament of baptism.
In baptism, God promises to love us, forgive us, and always be with us.
By water and the Spirit we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God;
and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

In the Gospel of Mark, we read Jesus' words;
*Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.* (Mark 10:14b-16)

*The child is presented for baptism by sponsors and parents:*

Who is it that you present for Baptism?

*R* *We present* Oliver Brooks Comaniuk *to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.*

*The minister addresses the Sponsors and Parents:*

You have brought Oliver to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
On the strength of God's gracious love for us,
and in communion with the Christian church,
will you, by your words and actions,
encourage and walk with him in the way of Jesus?
Do you promise to pray for him, and teach him to pray?
Do you promise to nurture him within the
community of the Christian Church?

*R* *We will, with God as our helper.*

*The minister addresses the congregation:*

People of God, do you promise to support Oliver and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
**We do.**

*The minister addresses baptismal group:*

I ask you to reject sin, acknowledge your faith in Christ Jesus,
and profess the faith of the Christian Church.
Trusting in God's love and mercy, do you reject evil,
and all its many forms, and all its empty promises.?

*R* *I do.*

Trusting in Christ Jesus' grace and love, do you accept his presence in your life as the one who draws you to God?

*R* *I do.*

With all God's people throughout time and space,
let us together profess our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**
**creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**
**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**
**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**
**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**
**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*A prayer of Thanksgiving (while water is poured into the font).*

Gracious and Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life,
and within it, the gift of water.
Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ.
To you be given praise and honour and worship
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The minister addresses the infant child.*

For you, little Oliver, God made the world out of nothing.
For you, God called Israel out of Egypt and
brought Israel back from Exile.
For you, Oliver, Christ came into the world to teach the children.
For you, Christ died on the cross and rose again.
For you, little child God sent the Holy Spirit
to give you strength to live as you ought.
For you, Christ will come again and take us to God.
Oliver, you know nothing of this.
But we promise to tell you the story until you make it your own,

*The minister baptizes the child.*

Oliver Brooks Comaniuk, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Blessing*

May God - who has given you new life through water, word and Spirit - guide you, inspire you and work within you, all the days of your life. Amen.

*Marking with the Sign of the Cross*

Oliver, child of God, this day you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the sign of the cross. Joined with Jesus, you are a child of God, now and forever.

*A lighted Candle is given to each of the Baptized.*

Let the light of Christ, which God has placed in your heart, shine through your words and actions from this day forward.

*A prayer for newly baptized and their families:*

Gracious God, forever faithful to your promise, we thank you for assuring us again that you will forgive us and receive us as children in Christ. Grant wisdom and love to Sarah and Steven and to us all as we carry out the vows we have just made.

We pray that you will guide Oliver and all our little ones throughout their lives. Enable them to respond in faith to the gospel. Fill them with your Spirit and make their lives fruitful. Give them strength to endure trials. And when Christ returns, let them celebrate with all the people of God your greatness and goodness forever in the joy of your new creation. Amen.

*The congregation stands and welcomes the baptized:*

Brothers, sisters, siblings in Christ, we now receive Oliver into Christ's church. I ask you to nurture and love him and to encourage him to be Christ's faithful disciple.

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into our family of faith. We promise to love, encourage, and support you and to help you know and follow Christ.**

The peace of the Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to share the peace with one another.*
*The baptismal families return to their seats.*

**Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

Let us pray:
**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9**

*This passage reflects the disillusionment of the people of Israel, returned from Exile in Babylon, and struggling to reconstruct their nation, their capital city, and their religion. A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the 64th chapter:*

If only you would tear open the heavens and come down! Mountains would quake before you like fire igniting brushwood or making water boil. If you would make your name known to your enemies, the nations would tremble in your presence.

When you accomplished wonders beyond all our expectations; when you came down, mountains quaked before you. From ancient times, no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any god but you who acts on behalf of those who wait for him!

You look after those who gladly do right; they will praise you for your ways. But you were angry when we sinned; you hid yourself when we did wrong. We have all become like the unclean; all our righteous deeds are like a menstrual rag. All of us wither like a leaf; our sins, like the wind, carry us away. No one calls on your name; no one bothers to hold on to you, for you have hidden yourself from us, and have handed us over to our sin.

But now, LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand. Don't rage so fiercely, LORD; don't hold our sins against us forever, but gaze now on your people, all of us.

Here ends the reading.
**Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

**Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

*Paul has just begun his letter to the Christians at Corinth. He writes to those "called to be saints", reminding them of the grace that has been given to them as they await the return of Christ. A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians, the first chapter:*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was given to you in Christ Jesus. That is, you were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until the end so

that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here ends the reading.
**Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

**Advent Gospel Acclamation *"Soon the Grace of God Appears"*** [3]

**Soon the grace of God appears; Christ will come! Christ will come!**
**Immanuel, God With Us, Christ, the Lord, will come!**

**Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

"In those days, after the suffering of that time, the sun will become dark, and the moon won't give its light. The stars will fall from the sky, and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then they will see the Human One coming in the clouds with great power and splendor. Then he will send the angels and gather together his chosen people from the four corners of the earth, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.

"Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that he's near, at the door. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until all these things happen. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

"But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the angels in heaven and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Watch out! Stay alert! You don't know when the time is coming. It is as if someone took a trip, left the household behind, and put the servants in charge, giving each one a job to do, and told the doorkeeper to stay alert. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know when the head of the household will come, whether in the evening or at midnight, or when the rooster crows in the early morning or at daybreak. Don't let him show up when you weren't expecting and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Stay alert!"

The gospel of our Lord.
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

[3] Words by Darrell Harris, Music by Eric Wyse © 2004 Petaluma Music ASCAP and Vine Ridge Music BMI.

**Sermon: Two Ways of Waiting**

**Hymn of the Day *"When Nations Turn Toward Trouble"*** [4] (tune #713)

1. **When nations turn toward trouble and hope seems all but gone,**
   **When threats and conflicts double, what can we count upon?**
   **When truth becomes distorted and love is pushed aside**
   **When hatred is supported, God, open heaven wide!**

2. **Tear open wide your heavens; bring down your mighty throne!**
   **Shake up the highest mountains and make your presence known —**
   **Till justice flows like water, till rulers humbly pray,**
   **Till all know you're the potter, till all know we are clay.**

3. **Christ, may we learn the lesson that you are coming here,**
   **For just as fig trees blossom we know that summer's near.**
   **Like guards remaining watchful all night, until the dawn,**
   **May we who love the gospel find strength to carry on.**

4. **May Christians march for justice, may peace prayers fill the streets,**
   **May churches put in practice the Christ-like ways we teach,**
   **May we oppose what's hateful and stand for what is true —**
   **And so may we be watchful as we wait here for you.**

**Reception of New Members**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation. Some of these folks have come to our congregation through transfer from another Lutheran or Anglican church. Some of them through a New Members session with me. We are glad to officially receive them all into our faith community.

*The new members are welcomed to the front.*

Lisa Armstrong
Dora Birkholtz
Bill Hillis
Flora Knudson
Kelly Mandzak
Terence Ming-Fok
Tricia Ming-Fok
Mathew Ming-Fok *
Marek Ming-Fok
Doug Soveran
Kristin Soveran
Fred Waldbauer
Patricia Waldbauer
Amy Weslowski
Derrick Weslowski
Alexis Weslowski *
Hunter Weslowski

[4] Words © 2017 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (www.carolynshymns.com)

Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called them to yourself,
enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished them in the community of faith.
Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

*Affirmation*

*The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.*

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

*The Blessing*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. Amen.

*Welcome*

*The congregation stands and welcomes the new members.*

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**
**Together we will give thanks and praise to God**
**and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*The new members return to their seats.*

**Prayers of Intercession** *

We come before God, offering both the rejoicing of our hearts and the weariness of our spirits. Let us join in prayer.

For the shifting of the seasons—for the gifts of both darkness and light, for the rest and respite of creation, for people navigating transitions, for the health of our land and water, for all gifts of stewardship and creativity: We turn to you, **receive our prayers, O God.**

For those who watch and wait—for bedside vigils, for anticipated reunions with those detained or incarcerated, for test results, for news about employment, for hope of reconciliation after disagreement or division, for expectant families, those in labor, and those in the wilderness of infertility, for all who await God's great and abundant mercy: We turn to you, **receive our prayers, O God.**

For the dawning of Christ's reign—for peace among nations and people, for just and merciful leaders and authorities, for a world where all are fed, clothed, and protected, for equal access to basic needs, for the restoration of joy, and for abundant life for all: We turn to you, **receive our prayers, O God.**

For those who became new members of Christ Lutheran Church this morning, that their presence among us would be a blessing to us and a joy to them. We pray for those members of our congregation who are suffering in any way, especially those in hospital or care facilities (*names*), that they would be relieved of their pain and would find hope in the midst of their hardships. We turn to you, **receive our prayers, O God.**

These and all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we commend to God, our Creator and our thrill of hope. Amen.

**Offering / Offering Prayer** *

*(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)*

Let us pray:

**Gracious God, in this Season of Advent, as we wait for the Messiah, we offer not only ourselves but our tithes and gifts as well. May these offerings work to bring about healing, justice, belonging, and the thrill of hope to a weary world. Amen.**

**Communion Liturgy** *

*Invitation to the Table*

Across generations, people have cried out for healing, justice, and peace. We look at a weary and wounded world and dare to believe that there is a different way. Again and again, God draws near. At this table, we remember one of the ways Jesus taught us to recognize that nearness—through the hope of those who say goodbye to the powers diminishing life.

Here, we proclaim Christ has come and trust Christ still comes among us: wherever the hungry are fed, the excluded are welcomed, and ordinary people choose mercy over revenge, courage over fear. So come to this table with all that makes you weary and all that keeps you hoping. Come hungry for a world made whole. Come ready to remember and actively wait. For even here, in bread broken and a cup shared, the miracle of Immanuel persists:

God is with us. The thrill of hope remains.

*Great Thanksgiving*

God be with you.
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts full of holy anticipation.
**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to Immanuel, God with us.
**We joyfully give our thanks and praise.**

We do lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, O God, for all the many ways you offer your saving grace each day. We give thanks for the model you provided for us: how to forgive, how to care, how to love. You came to show us these things during a time of corrupt power when systems prioritized wealth over the wellness of all people. And yet, that did not deter you. The witnesses to your actions could not keep silent. They told and retold your story so that the work of your kingdom come would sustain and inspire their communities and generations to come. And so, with a thrill of hope in our hearts, we unite with all the saints who have gone before us, telling your story, and joining their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your almighty name.
When the faithful cry out to you, you draw near. Salvation comes.
As we long for healing, restoration, and wholeness, you model the power of mercy, compassion, and generosity through your Son, Jesus Christ.

*Words of Institution*

On the night you gathered your friends to eat together in the midst of their fear and yours, a common meal was transformed into elements of grace to be shared, remembered, and celebrated by generations upon generations.

You took a simple loaf of bread.
Blessed it. Broke it. Shared it.

You encouraged your friends to eat, letting the bread nourish and sustain them for the work ahead.

Then you took a cup of wine.
Blessed it. Passed it.

You said to drink from it, letting the warmth trickle down, reminding them of your ever-present love.

Because of these simple and remarkable acts, we offer ourselves to be your hands and feet, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ was executed.**
**Christ is risen.**
**Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit on us and these your gifts of grace. May they be for us a reminder of how your salvation breaks through in everyday life to everyday people. May we remember the Messiah who saved us is saving us and will save us. Fill our hearts with gratitude for this table where there is enough for all. Our world, O God, is in desperate need of your salvation. May this bread and cup give us courage to be communities of resistance and repair.

With confidence, we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying:
**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.**
**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power,**
**and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Communion Invitation and Instructions*

*Communion Distribution (begin with communing the online congregation)*

**Hymn during Communion *"What Feast of Love"* #487**

1. **What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?**
   **What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?**
   **This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.**
   **Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**

2. **What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?**
   **What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?**
   **This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.**
   **Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**

3. **What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?**
   **What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?**
   **This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.**
   **Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

**Hymn during Communion *"Christ, Be Our Light"* #715**

1. **Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**
   **Longing for truth, we turn to you.**
   **Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*Refrain*: **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.**
**Shine through the darkness.**
**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

2. **Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**
   **Longing for hope, many despair.**
   **Your word alone has pow'r to save us.**
   **Make us your living voice.** *(Refrain)*

3. **Longing for food, many are hungry.**
   **Longing for water, many still thirst.**
   **Make us your bread, broken for others,**
   **shared until all are fed.** *(Refrain)*

4. **Longing for shelter, many are homeless.**
   **Longing for warmth, many are cold.**
   **Make us your building, sheltering others,**
   **walls made of living stone.** *(Refrain)*

5. **Many the gifts, many the people,**
   **many the hearts that yearn to belong.**
   **Let us be servants to one another,**
   **making your kingdom come.** *(Refrain)*

**Communion Blessing**

May the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in his grace now, and unto life everlasting.

**Prayer after Communion** *

Let us pray:

God of hope, through this meal, you nourish us in our weariness and strengthen our community of faith. Energize our spirits to stay alert to your saving presence in the world. May we go forth as storytellers, not withholding what we have heard and felt while gathered together in this space, but sharing with all who are curious and all who long for restoration. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

**Charge** *

Go out into the world and keep awake—watching, waiting, and remembering salvation happens when we say goodbye to the powers that diminish life. Look for God's restoration and healing and empower one another to resist despair with the thrill of hope.

**Blessing** *

May the blessing of God, our salvation,
Christ, our peace, and the Spirit, our joy,
thrill your heart and sustain your spirit,
now and always. Amen.

**Commission**

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve!
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** – Joshua Hendricksen