



**Blue Christmas Evening Prayer**

December 20, 2025

6 pm



DIAMOND  
LAKE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

## Facility Guide:

### **Accessibility**

Hearing devices, noise-reduction earmuffs, and large print bulletins are available for worship services—please see the ushers for assistance. Automatic door openers are present on the main doors and restroom doors in the Commons Area. An elevator that accesses all floors can be found in the hallway to the right when entering from the main glass doors. Please feel free to borrow a walker or wheelchair (found in the entryway) for your time in our building.

### **Restrooms**

Men's, women's, and all-gender restrooms are located in the Commons Area. They are to the left of the Lakeview Room entrance (or directly to your left when entering through the main glass doors).

### **Emergency and First Aid**

A first aid kit, automated external defibrillator (AED), and fire extinguisher are located on the left when entering through the main doors. Other fire extinguishers can be found in the Narthex (the back of the sanctuary), the Vestry (front left of the sanctuary), and throughout the building.

### **Lost and Found**

Missing something? Our Lost and Found is in the Commons Area coat room. Stop by anytime to check for items that may belong to you.

### **Notice of Filming and Photography**

During worship services and church events at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, photography and video recording may occur. These images and recordings may be used in church publications, social media, and other communications to share and celebrate our ministry. If you prefer not to be included in photos and video, please let an usher or staff member know. Thank you for your understanding and for being part of our community life together.

# Welcome to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church!

**We are so glad you are here!** If you'd like more information about this community of faith, please fill out a Welcome card (found in the pew pockets near the hymnals) and hand it to Pastor Andrea or an usher following worship. Take the Grow card with you if you wish! Please wear your name tag—it helps us welcome guests, get to know one another, and support those with memory concerns. If you don't yet have one, visit the Commons Area name tag station to make yours. We encourage adding pronouns to name tags!

## **Children in Worship**

Children are encouraged to be present for worship—build-your-own activity bags are located in the narthex, along with children's bulletins. A nursery is located on the lower level if you need it. Please ask an usher for directions. If you are a nursing parent, you are welcome to nurse anywhere. If you would like privacy, there is a nursing room in the nursery downstairs.

## **Participating in Today's Service**

Pastor: Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

Organist/Pianist: Dr. Kevin Hobbs

Guest Musician: Anna Koopmann

Acolyte: Parker Webster

Greeters: Melinda Batz, Sue Nelson

Ushers: Cyndi Kresse, Julie Schmidt

Readers: Shelly Clausen, Robb Bass, May Reffsgaard, Lisa Bass

A/V Tech: Frank Anderson, John Nelson, Aspen Clausen

Nursery: Lacy Tooker-Kirkevold

## BLUE CHRISTMAS EVENING PRAYER

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. The intention of this service is to provide a time and place of solace during the frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

### PRELUDE

*I Wonder as I Wander*, Niles, arr. Hayes

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### TRINITY CHIMES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight, we gather here in this place of refuge,  
**for we are lost, we are lonely, we are overwhelmed, we grieve.**

Tonight, we gather, daring to wonder if God has indeed come in Jesus,  
**anticipating a season of peace and joy,  
while holding heartache tenderly in our hands.**

Tonight, we gather with neighbors and strangers,  
a family made one by the universality of brokenness,  
**coming with our hearts full of hope, and our pockets filled with doubt.**

Tonight, we gather just as we are,  
**for God has promised to meet us here, and to welcome us for who we are.**

### SONG

*In the Bleak Midwinter*.....ELW 294

## **READING: ISAIAH 40:1-11**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass;  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers; the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers; the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him

and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms

and carry them in his bosom

and gently lead the mother sheep.

## SONG

*Wait for the Lord.....ELW 262 (Repeated)*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The melody is on the treble staff, starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and then a half note G4. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The melody on the treble staff moves from G4 to A4, B4, and then a half note G4. The bass staff continues with harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the staves.

**CANDLE OF HOPE**

The first candle is the candle of hope.  
We light it tonight and we stand with those who feel lost in despair, for whom hope seems lost. We light it as a reminder that no matter how terrible the world seems, hope remains steadfast. We light this candle out of our own longing for hope, for a ray of light in places filled with shadows.  
**Come, O Christ, and bring your hope.**

**SONG**

*Wait for the Lord*.....ELW 262 (Repeated)

**CANDLE OF PEACE**

The second candle is the candle of peace.  
We light it tonight and we stand with those whose lives are marked by anxiety, chaos, or violence. We light this candle out of our own longing for peace, for calm and wholeness within ourselves and throughout the whole world.  
**Come, O Christ, and bring your peace.**

**SONG**

*Wait for the Lord*.....ELW 262 (Repeated)

**CANDLE OF JOY**

The third candle is the candle of joy.  
We light it tonight and we stand with those who are struggling through a season of grief. We light it for those who have lost a loved one, who are missing someone deeply in this holiday season, or whose loved ones are far away. And in these coming days when the songs of jingle bells and holly jolly Christmas are supposed to make us merry, we light this candle for those who instead will find themselves with sadness in these long winter nights. We light this candle out of our own longing for joy, for the joy of God which goes deeper than our circumstances, and

the joy of resurrection that is stronger than the grave.

**Come, O Christ, and bring true joy.**

## **SONG**

*Wait for the Lord*.....ELW 262 (Repeated)

## **CANDLE OF LOVE**

The fourth candle is the candle of love.

We light it tonight and we stand with those who feel unloved. We light it for those who have not experienced God's love, but have felt rejected or unwelcome by people claiming to speak for Christ. We light it for those who have been hurt, mistreated, or abused by people who were supposed to love them. We light this candle out of our own longing for love, for we were made to love and be loved by God and by each other.

**Come, O Christ, and bring your love.**

## **SONG**

*Wait for the Lord*.....ELW 262 (Repeated)

## **READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,



you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## **SONG**

*Wait for the Lord*.....ELW 262 (Repeated)

## **CHRIST CANDLE**

The center candle is the Christ candle.

We light it tonight, and we remember. We remember that Christ came in weakness, in poverty, in humility. We remember that Christ came not for perfect people who have it all together, but for people like us—people who are sinners, people who are lost, people who struggle and mess up and sometimes feel very far from God. Christ came to live among us and to love us in the midst of our messy human lives. As we light this candle, we give thanks for Jesus, Emmanuel, the God who is with us, and who remains with us.

**Come, O Christ, and dwell among us. Amen.**

## SONG

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.....ELW 257 (vs 1-4)

## READING: JOHN 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## CANDLES OF THE COMMUNITY

*At this time you may come forward to light a candle – or several candles – as an offering, as a prayer petition, or in honor or memory of someone or something. In order to light safely, please only tip unlit candles toward lit ones when lighting.*

## READING: *Blessing When the World is Ending* by Jan Richardson

Look, the world  
is always ending  
somewhere.

with the gun,  
the knife,  
the fist.

Somewhere  
the sun has come  
crashing down.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the slammed door,  
the shattered hope.

Somewhere  
it has gone  
completely dark.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with the utter quiet  
that follows the news

Somewhere  
it has ended

from the phone,  
the television,  
the hospital room.

Somewhere  
it has ended  
with a tenderness  
that will break  
your heart.

But, listen,  
this blessing means  
to be anything but morose.  
It has not come  
to cause despair.

It is here  
simply because  
there is nothing  
a blessing  
is better suited for  
than an ending,  
nothing that cries out more  
for a blessing

than when a world  
is falling apart.

This blessing  
will not fix you,  
will not mend you,  
will not give you  
false comfort;  
it will not talk to you  
about one door opening  
when another one closes.

It will simply  
sit itself beside you  
among the shards  
and gently turn your face  
toward the direction  
from which the light  
will come,  
gathering itself  
about you  
as the world begins  
again.

**SONG**

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness.....ELW 251*

**PRAYERS**

**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.**

**BLESSING**

**SONG**

*Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory*.....ELW 561

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace or remain in prayer,  
Knowing that the Holy Spirit will never leave you,  
And that God loves you beyond measure.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,*  
Martin and Blane, arr. Hayes

*Please leave the sanctuary quietly, or stay in prayer for as long as you like. If you'd like someone to pray with you individually, Pastor Andrea and Parish Nurse Parker Webster will be in the front pews for this purpose—simply come forward, one at a time, on either side of the sanctuary. Refreshments will be available following the service, as you exit the sanctuary.*

Call to Worship and candle readings adapted from Community Blue Christmas Service, Cann Memorial Presbyterian Church.  
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