

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

**The
Kingdom
of
God
is near.**

Luke 21: 31

Advent 1

November 28, 2021



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

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Advent 1

November 28, 2021

COME, BABY JESUS!

We joyfully welcome all who join us this morning as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth and anticipate our Lord's promised and glorious return. A special welcome to all guests and visitors. John the Baptist prepared us for a baby, now we must prepare the world for a King.

COME, LORD AND KING!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

*Lighting of the Advent Candles

This is the waiting time.

What are we waiting for?

We wait for the birth of hope.

What are we hoping for?

We hope that Jesus' life and love will be born anew in us.

We light the candle of hope. *The first candle is lit.*

Today is the first Sunday in Advent - the time when we prepare once again for the coming of Jesus.

We light a candle to remind us that Jesus brings light into the dark places of the world.

Through the prophets, God promised a future shaped by justice and righteousness. Jeremiah gave the people of Israel hope that such a future would be revealed through the 'righteous Branch' which would spring from the house of David.

We share this hope as we wait for the fulfillment of God's promise in the birth of Jesus, promised Saviour, Light of the world.

We light the candle of hope.

The first candle is lit

Awesome God, creator of all that is, we praise and adore you. Your greatness and glory is far beyond our imagination. Yet you chose to show us the human face of your love by entering this world as we do – as a baby – dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. As we wait once more for this wondrous event - teach us your ways - O God and guide us in your paths.

Amen

*CONFESSION

God is coming – are we ready? Not just for parties or planning special meals, Christmas lights, decorations , buying gifts - but are our hearts ready – our lives ready to receive the most wonderful gift of all – Jesus Christ. Watch, pray, be ready for this gift who came in the past, comes in the present, and will come in the future. Are we ready?

Jesus' words that heaven and earth will pass away sound a warning to us when we allow worldly values to replace God's values of justice, love and peace.

When we ignore or forget these values and our lives reflect indifference to the pain and lack of justice in people's lives:

Forgive us, O God.

When the dream of a new heaven and earth becomes a nightmare because we have replaced the imprint of God's hand on creation with destructive marks of neglect and abuse.

Forgive us, O God.

When we close our hearts to the plight of the countless lost, landless, wounded refugees who wander the world without hope.

Forgive us, O God.

Open our ears and hearts to Jesus' promise that his words will not pass away, and empower us with the Holy Spirit so that our deeds and our words are aligned with his and made visible through the service of our lives.

So that ...Generosity replaces greed

Love replaces indifference

Action replaces apathy and

An abundant blossoming earth replaces a dying world. Amen

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

For your goodness' sake, O God, do not remember our sins or our transgressions. According to your steadfast love, remember us. And God's goodness is made eternally visible in the person of Jesus Christ who makes all things new. The good news therefore, is this: in and through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

"The King Shall Come"

33

*The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.*

*Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.*

*Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.*

*Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.*

*The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.*

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

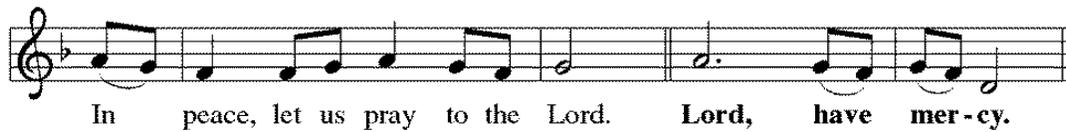
***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

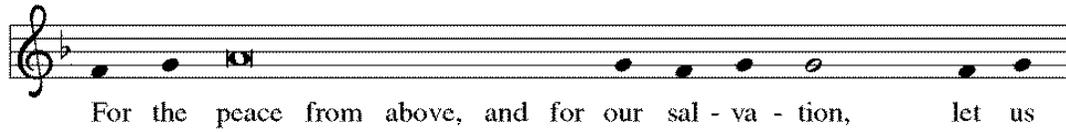
And also with you.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***KYRIE**



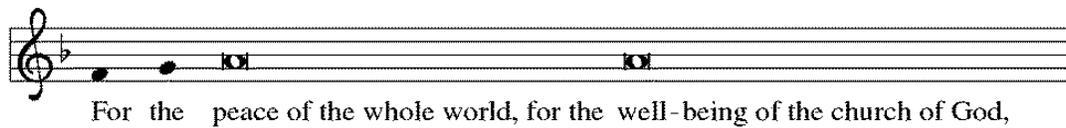
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



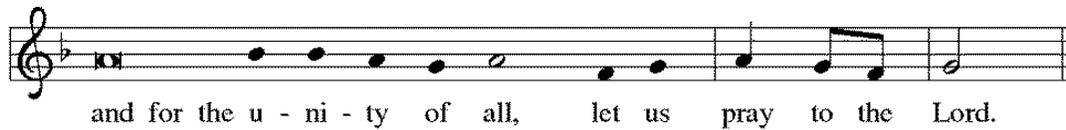
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



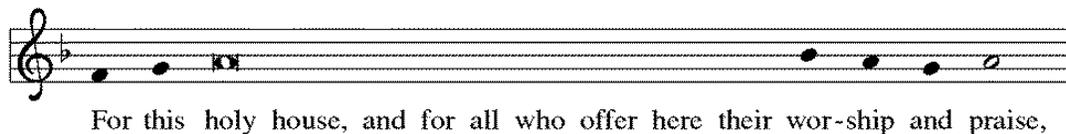
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



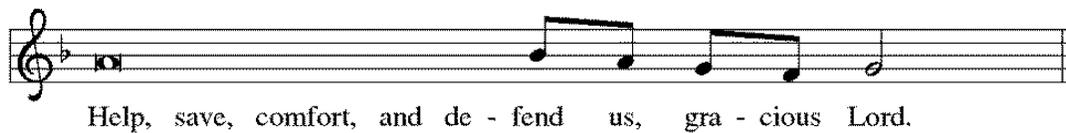
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

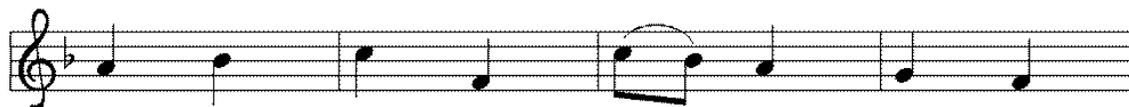
Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

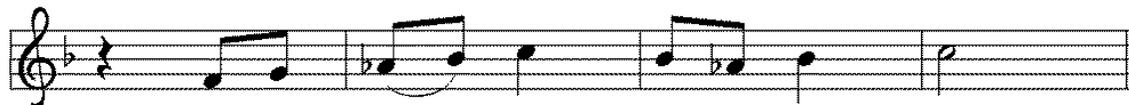
¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

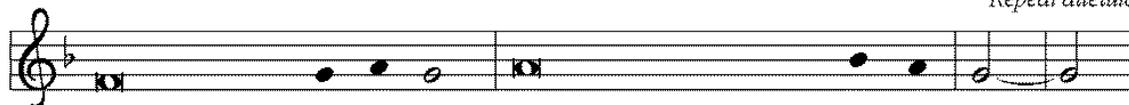


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

23

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.*

*Your Zion strews before you green boughs and fairest palms;
and I, too, will adore you with joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever for you with praises new
and from your name shall never withhold the honor due.*

*I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high
that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.*

*Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.*

*Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, there, standing at the door,
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.*

*He comes to judge the nations, a terror to his foes,
a light of consolations and blessed hope to those
who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.*

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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.

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONG**

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

25

*Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.*

*The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.*

*The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.*

*Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!*

*THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).

Postlude



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First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

Expectant Waiting

A pastor once summarized the way God answers prayers with three categories: yes, no, and not yet. To his young audience, these categories made sense and served as a simple way to think about their prayer life. But having clear categories does not dismiss the fact that it is often easier to receive the answer “yes” or “no,” compared to the answer “not yet.” After all, the answer “not yet” often involves waiting. And waiting can be exhausting!

Whether it be waiting for a medical diagnosis, longing for healing in a relationship, expecting a child, or enduring another situation beyond our complete control, it can be challenging to be patient, accept the unknown, and trust God’s promises in the meantime.

This is a reality Jesus understood, and one that is at the heart of his parable of the fig tree in today’s reading. The early believers needed encouragement as they waited for the coming of the Lord. Patience, endurance, and trust did not come any easier to them than they do to many of us today. Yet that is precisely what followers of Christ are invited to do during the season of Advent: to remain prayerful and expectant as they await the birth of Jesus.

Perhaps that is why Jesus gives his followers something to do in their waiting. Jesus’ words urge us to be on the lookout for signs of God’s kingdom, even as we await the fulfillment of God’s promises in the future. The sign you see may be a neighbor helping another in need, a child growing and thriving, or a card received from a friend. God’s promise is that even as we wait for the fulfillment of God’s kingdom, it is drawing near—and is, in fact, already among us.