

# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



**Come,  
let us walk  
in the light  
of the LORD!**

Isaiah 2:5, NRSV

**Advent 1**

**November 27, 2022**



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

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◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 27, 2022**

## 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*

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God of light and life, you set before us today the challenges of laying aside the works of darkness; of putting on the light of Christ; of being watchful and prepared for your coming in our midst in the person of Jesus Christ. As the people of God in this place we know that a crucial part of our witness is in revealing Christ to the world through the way we love and care for one another.

**Forgive us when people do not see any evidence in us of the One who is to come.**

So many people, young and old, grope helplessly in the gloom of despair and suffering, yearning for the light of hope to dawn in their lives.

**Remind us that the light of Christ shines through people like us.**

Merciful God, cleanse our hearts and minds of all that hinders us from loving you and loving our neighbor.

**So that our lives radiate faith active in love, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more in the person of Jesus Christ. Amen**

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers: the night is far gone, the day is near. That day of salvation is experienced as we lay aside the works of darkness and put on the protection of the Light of the world - Jesus Christ - in whom and through whom we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **\*LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES**

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

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

Today, the prophet Isaiah describes a future shaped by peace for all nations as they walk in the light of the Lord. We wait in hope for this prophecy to be fulfilled.

**We light the candle of hope to proclaim that God's light is coming into the world**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

*“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”  
(A candle is lit while we sing.)*

(vs. 1-2)

#31

*Wake, awake, for night is flying,  
the watchmen on the heights are crying;  
awake, Jerusalem, at last.  
Midnight hears the welcome voices,  
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.  
The bridegroom comes! Awake;  
your lamps with gladness take!"  
Alleluia!  
Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord,  
whose light has stirred the waiting guard.*

*Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
and in her heart new joy is springing.  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom,  
for her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
the strong in grace, in truth victorious.  
Her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
Oh, come, you Blessed One,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.  
Sing hosanna!  
We go until the halls we view  
where you have bid us dine with you.*

**\*ADVENT PRAYER**

God of all nations - you spoke to Isaiah and you empowered him to speak welcome words of peace and hope to the people of his time. We need to hear your word anew to us today as the darkness of despair is still experienced wherever peace and hope is absent. Strengthen us with the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may be your prophets in this day and age - teaching your ways and lifting people's darkness through words and work of love and peace and justice.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

*“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”  
Now let all the heav'ns adore you,  
and saints and angels sing before you.  
The harps and cymbals all unite.  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
where, dwelling with the choir immortal,  
we gather round your dazzling light.  
No eye has seen, no ear  
has yet been trained to hear,  
what joy is ours!  
Crescendos rise; your halls resound;  
hosannas blend in cosmic sound.*

(vs. 3)

# 31

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.

**\*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 OF THE PEACE**

### **ADVENT LITANY**

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord

**That we may walk in the paths of the Lord.**

They shall beat their swords not plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks

**Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**

A soot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.

**And a branch shall grow out of its roots.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad

**The desert shall rejoice and blossom.**

The dead are raised,

**And the poor have good news brought to them.**

Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

**And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."**

Prepare the way of the Lord,

**Make straight the paths of the Lord.**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

**That you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, 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***

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
 and their spears into pruning hooks;  
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
 neither shall they learn war any more.  
<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Romans 13:11-14**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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**

**Matthew 24:36-44**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

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

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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.*

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite

**\*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**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.  
...God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**✠ THANKSGIVING ✠**

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERTORY SONG**

*"Create in Me..."*

**ELW # 186**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

**✠ 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!*

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**Postlude**



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# TIME TO WAKE UP

Advent is a season of waking up. Even as the days grow darker, we are awoken to the light of truth about our lives, the world, and, ultimately, God. But no one really *likes* being woken from sleep, real or metaphorical. No one likes being pulled from a cozy blanket to a crowded commute, from dreams to reality, from what’s comfortable and “always has been” to what’s actually happening right now. It’s why when we have pivotal, perhaps painful moments in our lives in which we become aware of something previously hidden, or about which we shed the veil of denial, we refer to them as “wake-up calls.”

Yet it is never God’s intent to hurt us by rousing us from sleep. It is not to punish us for our past mistakes, to expose our inner failings to the world, or to add to the already deep well of shame that so many of us carry. *It is for our good* that God comes to reveal that which was hidden, breaking into our world as human flesh and blood. And it is for our good that, through our baptism, we are able to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14). The divine image is revealed in you, and in every friend and stranger. God knows, loves, and takes delight in each of us.

That is why nations will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and their guns into gravel to build a highway for our God. We won’t *need* to learn war anymore, as the prophet says (Isaiah 2:4), because you can’t raise arms against your own kin, another person in whom the living Christ dwells.

This season is a time for us to awaken to this new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent.