

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 28, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

Some days in our lives stand out as more memorable than others. The birth of a child, a long-awaited graduation, a particular vacation, or a family gathering are all days of joy that become part of the stories of our lives. A terrible illness, the death of someone dear, the loss of a job—these days, too, stand out as moments seared in our memories of pain that never seems to go away entirely. Some days stand out more than others. Today's Readings declare the days when Jesus came into the midst of all our joys and sorrows to bring joy, restoration, and hope. Our salvation was won on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. And the day is still coming when Christ will return and all creation will be restored. Jesus fills our days—good or bad, joyful or sorrowful—with His gracious presence from now until He returns on that great Last Day.

HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” *LSB* 338

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.
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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Today, the season of Advent begins, and the church tracks the time until Christmas with the lighting of the Advent wreath. The word *Advent* appropriately means *coming*, and that is what the season celebrates. It celebrates the coming of Christ in various ways. Each week, we will focus on a different aspect of Christ's coming as we light a candle on the Advent wreath.

Today, as we light our first candle, we call to mind the promises of Jesus' coming made in the Old Testament. In our Old Testament text we hear, “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In 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. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

As the first candle is lit to remind us how God kept His promises regarding Jesus' first coming, we sing selected verses of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

4. O Come, Thou Branch of Jesse's Tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

Pastor: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another. We confess to You, O Lord, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. And so we cry,

People: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

People: Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?

Pastor: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.

People: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,

Pastor: who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted.

People: For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 33:14–16* (The prophet Jeremiah foresees a day when God would come to bring righteousness to His people.) “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In 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. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 25:1–10*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 3:9–13* (Paul reminds us that God can cause us to abound in love for one another as we await the coming of the Lord.) What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 21:25–36* (The kingdom of God is near.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on

the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Savior of the Nations, Come” *LSB* 332

1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father’s Son
Who in flesh the vict’ry won.
By Your mighty pow’r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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SERMON

Some days are more important than others, aren't they? As you look back on your life, chances are that a number of days stand out. Not all days are equal. Some soon fade into the mix, while others might continue to stand out. Some of you might vividly remember the day JFK was shot, or when the I-35W bridge collapsed in Minneapolis. Most of you remember September 11, 2001, and where you were when that happened.

On an individual level, you may remember a particular Christmas, Easter, or birthday. Perhaps, a special family vacation or your wedding day. The day your favorite team won the biggest game (Vikings Fans are still waiting for that, aren't they?). Or, it could be a day of particular pain, tragedy, or loss, that is forever seared into your memory. Some days are more important than others.

In our Old Testament reading, Jeremiah speaks to the people of Jerusalem about some supremely important, crucial, stand-out days. He calls them "those days." "Those days" sound like some pretty great days, don't they? Jeremiah declared that "those days" are coming, but gathered here at Emmaus, gathered under this cross, we celebrate that "those days" have already come. They came with the advent of Jesus.

Just think about it, 2,000 years ago from this very day, God was walking around in our world in human flesh. Jesus came preaching the good news of God's kingdom, healing the sick, driving out demons, suffering and dying for our sins on the cross, rising on the third day, and ascending to the Father. Those were the days—the days when our Savior, Jesus, walked visibly in our world and won our salvation. They are the most important days this world has ever seen. They are the centerpiece of human history. Jesus' Days on Earth are "those days" that bring meaning and hope to all other days, before and after.

In our Old Testament reading for today, Jeremiah pointed the people toward "those days." But the people of Jeremiah's time, like people in every time, were more interested in their own days, in the right-now needs of their own lives. It goes and sounds like this: "Jeremiah, these are the days. These are the days that count...to me. These are my days. I have a mortgage to pay, health concerns to worry about, and a difficult boss. I have to be concerned with working out and staying healthy, getting the kids to swim lessons, and fixing up the house for the holidays. I have retirement investments to monitor, hobbies to pursue, and favorite teams to cheer for. I have people dependent on me, leaves to rake, and news to read. Jeremiah, talk to me about *these days*. These are the days I care about."

And you know, in the wake of such concerns, countless Israelites had turned aside to other sources of help. They neglected the words of God's prophets and they abandoned the worship of God. Instead, they turned to false gods and false prophets. They turned to prophets whose messages focused on the here and now, and proclaimed what they wanted to hear. They turned to the gods of neighboring peoples, gods whose worship focused on guaranteeing a good crop for this year, or on protecting them from current dangers, or on multiplying the number of their herds. Century after century this had gone on—the Israelites forsook their God to run after false gods and to focus on their right-now needs. And century after century, God had sent true prophets to his people to warn them and to turn them back, to call them back to hope in God's promises for "those days"—the coming days of the Messiah.

Finally, in Jeremiah's generation, God's patience with Jerusalem had run out. They pushed the patient and caring God to His limit. In punishment for their unbelief and idolatry, God announced that he would bring the Babylonians against Jerusalem, like He did the Assyrians against Israel. He told Jeremiah that He had made up His mind to destroy the city, and nothing could be done to change it.

That is Jeremiah's context. That was the situation in which our text this morning was spoken. Jeremiah had announced to the people that a great destruction was coming, and that it was sent by God's own hand: the unstoppable armies of Babylon. To the people of Jerusalem in this desperate situation, Jeremiah speaks the words of our text: **"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In 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. In those days [in His days] Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely."**

How do you think the people responded to that? What kind of a reaction do you think Jeremiah got to these wonderful words of promise? Well, most despised and hated him! They probably said something like this: "Get out of here, Jeremiah, and take your irrelevant, someday-down-the-road promises with you! We don't need a God who will help us *'in those days'*. We're tired of a God Who says, 'The days are coming.' We need prophets who will speak about peace for this day, *for now*! If you haven't noticed, Jeremiah, there are like

a million Babylonians outside these walls, every one of them armed to the teeth and ready to fight. They're planning to kill us, or carry us off into slavery, and all your God has to tell us is that 'the days are coming' when He will fulfill promises? Jeremiah, we don't care about *'those days.'*”

It wasn't long before Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians, just as Jeremiah said. The beautiful city of God was torn apart: her great walls were toppled, the streets emptied of life, and the temple of God looted and destroyed. The prince of the city was taken before the Babylonian general, who killed his sons right before his eyes, and then ordered that his eyes be gouged out so that was the last thing he would see. Talk about cruelty. The prince, and most of the survivors, were led away in chains to a life of exile in Babylon.

But those few among them that still placed their hopes in the promises of God's Word through Jeremiah were not to be disappointed. In spite of present hardship, bitter hardship, unimaginable hardship, they clung to God's sweet promises. In spite of present hardship, or maybe because of it, they set their hearts not on their own day, but on the days which were coming.

“The days are coming,” God promised. And come they did. About 600 years later, at God's own perfect tie, God made a new branch sprout from the line of King David. His name was Jesus, God's own Son, and He came to Judah and to Jerusalem to fulfill every promise God had made to them. He conquered death and sin and hell. He restored the relationship between God and His people. He won eternal victory for God's people over all their enemies-eternal security for them, eternal joy, and an eternal kingdom.

“Those days”, Jesus' days, are God's source of true help and comfort for His people, and they are for us, people living in 2021. The significance and power of Jesus' earthly life extends far beyond the days when He ascended to the Father. The saving strength and merciful favor of God for you today is rooted and anchored in “those days”, the life and work of Jesus Christ, come in the flesh for you, 2,000 years ago.

This is why the Church observes a church year, year after year, which rehearses the life of Jesus over and over and over again. From Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost, our Scripture readings and hymns direct our attention to the saving life and work of Jesus Christ each Sunday. The church year directs our attention to “those days,” which God tells us are the most important days for us. And so, as we begin another church year today, we fix our eyes, we set our hearts, on “those days,” Jesus' first coming.

For those are the days that matter most. As we hear from the Bible about Jesus' life of love, we encounter His revelation of God's true heart, His profound love, and the true pattern and meaning of life. As we eat this bread, which is His body, and drink this cup, which is His blood, we do so in remembrance of the days of Jesus' saving work; we proclaim the Lord's death until comes. Because of Jesus' death 2,000 years ago, all of your sin and guilt is removed *today, now*. At the baptismal font, our Lord gives us new life in baptism, and He does so by the power of Jesus' resurrection. Because of His resurrection 2,000 years ago, you have the pledge of eternal life and glory *today, now*.

So far, we've been looking backwards to the days of Jesus. But there is another great day, too, that we can't forget. Jesus calls it “that day.” “That day,” the day of His return, is still coming, when the heavens above will be shaken, and we will see Jesus coming on the clouds with great power and glory. Even as we fix our eyes on those days 2,000 years ago, the days of Jesus, we also watch for “that day,” the day of His coming, as our Lord encourages us.

For because of Jesus' saving work at His first coming, when He comes again, He will raise up all the dead, and He will give eternal life and a place in His kingdom to all who trust in Him. Thousands upon thousands of His saints will rise from the dust on that day, and we will shin with them like the stars forever and ever. Jeremiah will be there, and so will those who trusted his words so long ago.

And so in the flood of our everyday worries and concerns, we set our hearts on “that day.” “In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely (v.16).” On that day, all our troubles will be at an end, and our Savior, Jesus, will reign forever and ever. At last, He will establish justice and righteousness in the earth. He will establish justice and righteousness in us and among us. That day is coming soon, Jesus promises. O Come, O come, Emmanuel! Some days are more important than others. Amen.

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION

Pastor: Dear Friends in Christ, on this day we have the joyful privilege of welcoming into our fellowship at Emmaus Lutheran Church these fellow saints in the body of Christ now present here before you. To you who are renewing your relationship through Affirmation of Faith, I would now ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Do you acknowledge and confess the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to be the true and unaltered teachings of the Word of God? If so, answer, “*I Do.*”

Do you desire in the sincere obedience of God, to be received into the communicant fellowship of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of Emmaus congregation? If so, answer, “*I Do.*”

Do you intend to continue in the confession of this Church, to make diligent and faithful use of His Word and Sacrament, and to lead a sober, righteous and God-pleasing life, even unto the end? If so, answer, “*I do so intend, with the help of God.*”

Do you desire to become a member of the family of Christ’s people at Emmaus, do you intend to join us in faithfully using His precious means of grace: His Word and Sacraments, and do you commit yourself to mission and ministry which He has given us to do in this place? If so, answer, “*Yes, with the help of God.*”

Please join with the people of Emmaus in confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles’ Creed. *I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.*

Pastor: In the Name of our Gracious God and on behalf of the people of Emmaus, I bid you welcome as members of Emmaus Lutheran Church and encourage you to faithfully continue with us in worshiping God, in hearing His Word and sharing His Supper, in proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed, and in striving for justice and peace in all the earth. May the blessings of the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rest upon you and abide with you. Depart in peace, serving the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING *We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.*

For meditation, from Luther’s Small Catechism, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word. Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 28:19)

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

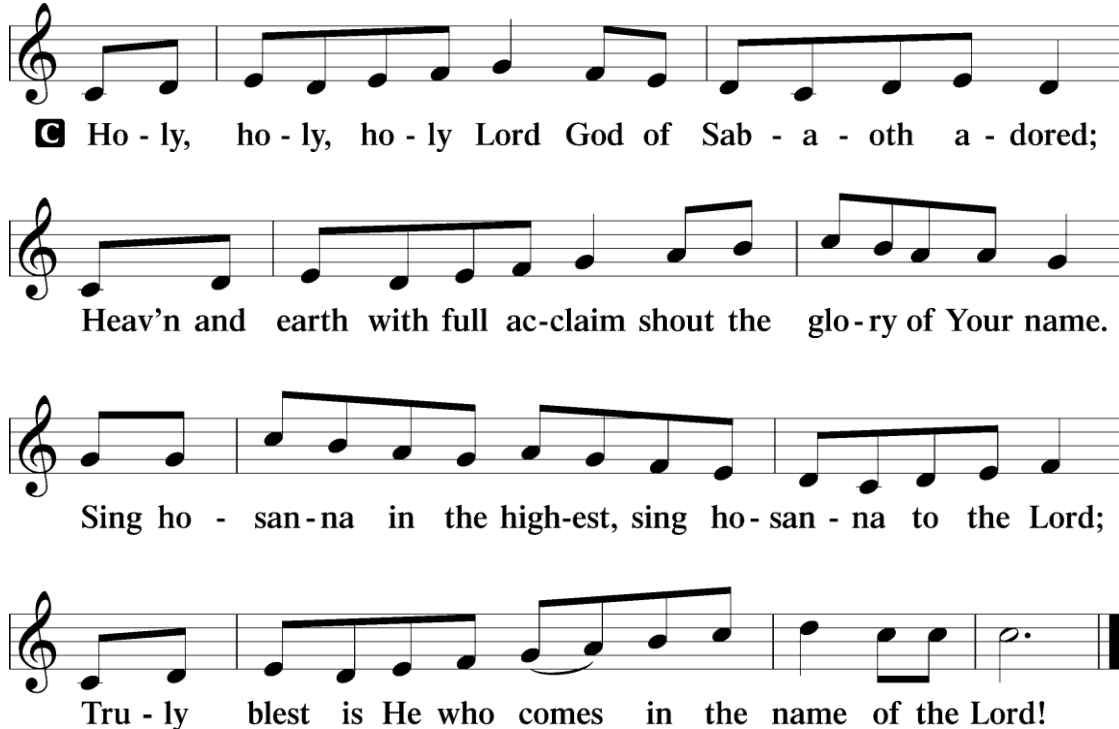
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: You, Lord Jesus Christ, are the Word made flesh. We give You all thanks, praise, and worship, for through Jeremiah and all the prophets Your Word continued to be spoken and lived at times when few people wanted to hear it. We give You all thanks, praise, and worship, for in the fullness of time, You entered this broken creation to take upon Yourself this world's sin and evil, to suffer and die, and then, in fulfillment of the ancient promise, to rise from the grave. We give You thanks, praise, and worship for letting Your Word come also to us, that we may live our days in Your kingdom and forever worship and adore You in the days to come. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying:

“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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You are invited to receive the Lord’s Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “Jesus Messiah” –Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, and Jesse Reeves ©2008
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1. He became sin, who knew no sin;
that we might become, His righteousness;
He humbled himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Chorus: Jesus Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

2. His body the bread, His blood the wine,
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn,
Love so amazing, love so amazing. *Chorus*

Bridge: All our hope is in You,
All our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God,
The Light of the world.

Chorus

BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord’s body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son into human history to take our sins to the cross on our behalf. Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for raising Him on the third day as You accepted the full payment, thereby declaring us righteous for His sake.

Awaiting His return at the end of all things, we give thanks that in this Sacrament You nourish us so that we are strengthened to put off the works of darkness and put on our Lord Jesus Christ to walk in the light of Your love. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood, receiving the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation which come in this Sacrament. We give thanks for Your salvation; we rejoice in Christ’s presence now; we await His return with judgment on the world and grace to all who await His return. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *1 Thessalonians 3:12–13; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, . . . so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN “While We Are Waiting, Come” -Claire Clonger & Don Cason
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1. While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

2. With pow’r and glory, come;
With pow’r and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

3. Come, Savior, quickly come;
Come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Luke 19:31 – “If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’ ”* Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it.” Then he gave willingly. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life – in our homes, in the Church, and in the communities in which we live. In each calling we have good work to do which comes from the Lord’s hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

EMMAUS GENERATIONS: Please join us on Tuesday, November 30th at 11:30 in the Social Hall. We will start with a brief devotion and prayer by Pastor Kooi, have a festival of soups for lunch, hear from Aaron Hoska about the positive impact of care packages for deployed troops, and fill Christmas stockings through Soldiers’ Angels to send to a deployed Chaplain to distribute to those in his care over the holidays. Supplies for filling the stockings will be provided by a Thrivent Action Grant.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will be held at Emmaus on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, and 15, at 11:30 a.m. (There will be a 7 p.m. service at Bethel Lutheran Church.)

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS: Sanctuary Christmas decoration donation slips are included in today’s bulletin. Please indicate your willingness to help defray decoration costs by using the donation slip. Place in the offering plate, hand to an usher or leave it on Maria’s desk. Donation slips will be available in the narthex through December 25.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: Saturday, December 11th, 2:30-5 p.m. Hear Christmas music, put the trees together, hang Chrismons on the big tree, arrange the manger scene, hang banners, garlands and wreaths, arrange poinsettias, have a sneak preview of the lights on in a dark sanctuary... Great fun for the whole family!

WE ARE COLLECTING TOYS! This year the Emmaus Social Ministries Committee is collecting new, unwrapped toys to help with the Salvation Army Toy Shop. The toys are then made available to families in our area that need a little help at Christmas time. Our collection will begin on Sunday, November 21st and go through Sunday, December 5th. Toys for all ages are needed – check the wall in the hallway for ideas. We have

received a Thrivent Action Grant to allow us to purchase additional toys. Any questions can be directed to Marie G. Thank you!

THE 2022 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is now posted on the bulletin board by the office. Sign up to bring altar flowers on a special Sunday in 2022. Write your name and the occasion (in memory, anniversary, birthday...) on the flower chart for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin announcements.

ALMS: Our alms fund is currently out, and we are looking for gift cards in denominations of \$20-25 to Cub Foods, Target, or Aldi, to give out to those in need, or to members who are struggling. Please talk to Pastor Kooi for more information, or if you would like to contribute.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Because We Belong” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The world tells us we must be useful in order to belong, but that's now how God sees us. (Luke 1:5-25)