

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 10, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

Throughout the season of Advent, you are welcome to try one of the practices for confession, which is kneeling. Kneeling has a rich meaning and symbolism in Scripture. It is associated with prayer, humility, devotion, and repentance. The act of kneeling during confession reminds us of this, and it also reflects the season's penitential nature. Whether you kneel, stand, or sit, we are all unworthy to come before our Lord because of our sin, and we thank God for the forgiveness that He has freely given us in Jesus Christ. If you would like to try this practice, we ask that you would gently put the kneeler down at the beginning of the service and would gently put it back up after Pastor is finished speaking the Absolution and the congregation responds.

PRESERVICE "Immanuel" -Michael Card

HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway" LSB 343

1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

ref Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!

2 God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: Refrain
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 27:13–14; 130:5*

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
People: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
People: and in His word I hope.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Based on Psalm 130*

Pastor: With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.
People: Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!
Pastor: Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!
People: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.
Pastor: But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.
People: Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.
Pastor: Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.
People: Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.
Pastor: As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our home in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3*

Pastor: Restore us, O God;
People: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!
People: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Pastor: You brought a vine out of Egypt;
People: it took deep root and filled the land.
Pastor: Restore us, O God of hosts;
People: let You face shine, that we may be saved!
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: Restore us, O God;
People: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

KYRIE *LSB p. 168*

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be found in Him, fully redeemed and at peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Last week, we looked forward to Christ's second coming. Today, we look at His first coming, which includes His birth in Bethlehem, His life and ministry, and His death, resurrection, and ascension. In our Gospel text, we see the preparatory work that John the Baptist did for the coming of Christ. He baptized people in the wilderness and proclaimed a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Mark tells us that, "all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins." John prepared people for the coming of Jesus through preaching, repentance, and baptism.

It is through those same means that God prepares us for His Son's coming today. Through our baptism, we die daily to sin and are raised to new life. Through preaching and the Word, the Lord works repentance in us by the Holy Spirit. He helps us to see our sin, confess it, and receive our Lord's gracious pardon. Fortunately, all of this is His work *in us*.

As the first two candles are lit, we recall our Lord's future coming, and His past coming. Our selected verses from "Savior of the Nations, Come" capture Jesus' first coming and the salvation He has won for us.

"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.
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.

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

Text (st. 1): Public domain

Text (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License

ADVENT RESPONSE

Pastor: Christ is coming, Alleluia!

People: Christ is coming, Alleluia!

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 40:1–11* (The Lord comes to comfort and pardon His people.)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "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. And 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!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on 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; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: righteous and having salvation.

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: From the house of the Lord we bless You.

EPISTLE 2 *Peter 3:8–14* (The Lord is patient toward you.) But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 3:4b, 6*

Pastor: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

People: all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:1–8* (The messenger prepares the way of the Lord.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *LSB 344*

1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.

4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.



5

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore. Text: Public domain

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING “Light of the World” -Michael Card

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 enter the sanctuary, or as the offering plates are passed at this time.

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 be found by Him without spot or blemish and at peace 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

Holy holy holy Lord
God of power and might
Heav’n and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes
In the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. 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.

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.

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 ✠ 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.”

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God you take away
All the sin of the world
Oh Lamb of God have mercy on us
And grant to us your peace

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.

Communion is offered in two ways: the individual cup and the common cup. If you would like the individual cup, please partake as the assistant minister passes by after Pastor gives the bread. If you would like the common cup, let the assistant minister pass by, open your hands palm up, and Pastor will return to give you the common cup.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“The Advent of Our King” *LSB 331*

1 The advent of our King
 Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
 In strains of holy joy.

2 The everlasting Son
 Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
 To set His servants free.

3 O Zion's daughter, rise
 To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
 The peace He comes to bring.

4 As judge, on clouds of light,
 He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
 With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
 Through all eternity. Text: Public domain

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” *LSB* 733

1 O God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
 And our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
 Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
 And our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
 Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
 To endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
 Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
 Before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
 Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
 And our eternal home!
Text: Public domain

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 *2 Peter 3:14*

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in steadfast love sent Your only-begotten Son into this world of sin, we thank You that for His sake You look upon us "without spot or blemish, and at peace." We praise You for Your patience and rejoice in Your redemption! We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Psalms 130:5; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

People: and in His word I hope.

Pastor: 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 "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise" *LSB 917*

1 Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

2 Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

4 Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE "What Sort of Song" -Michael Card

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.

Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 a.m.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: 2 Peter 3:11 – “Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?” All the things of the earth have an expiration date: “Good until the last day.” On that day, all these things will be dissolved. The things that seem so important now will simply cease to be. Peter issues this to us as a challenge: Since this is so, what kind of life should we be living? What should your priorities be? On things? Or on the things of God?

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS: Sanctuary Christmas decoration donation slips are available in the narthex. Please indicate your willingness to help defray decoration costs by using the donation slip. Place it 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.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will be held on upcoming Wednesdays, December 13 and 20, at Emmaus at 11:30 a.m.

TIME FOR LUNCH! Please join us for lunch down in the Social Hall after the Advent services on Dec. 13 and 20. It will be a great time of food and fellowship as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus’ birth. A basket will be set out to collect a free-will offering to cover the cost of food. See you there!

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Life After Landing” Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. What happens when a passenger suddenly has to be the pilot? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the power of words to save. (Isaiah 61:1-2)

WINTERWEAR DRIVE: The St. Paul Outreach Center is hosting a winterwear (hats/gloves/mittens/scarves/socks) giveaway on Saturday, January 20 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Jehovah Lutheran Church (1566 Thomas Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104). This is a shared ministry of the St. Paul Circuit LCMS churches and schools. We are seeking donations and volunteers. Donations can be left at Jehovah on January Fridays (5, 12, 19) 9:00-11:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed on January 18, 19 & 20 for setup and event assistance. Please sign up on the form at this link with donations and times you can help: <https://rb.gy/hq4tc0> Questions? Contact David Mennicke, St. Paul Outreach Coordinator at spoc@jehovahlutheran.org or 651-636-3271. Thanks for your donations, time, and prayers!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

What happens if there is inclement weather or some other reason that brings into question whether a planned service or event at Emmaus will take place??? Even though it may not happen often, we have had times in the past when we’ve had to cancel worship and scrambled to let our members know in a timely manner.

There will be a three-prong approach to notify our members should we have to cancel services. If possible, a notice will also be posted on the entrance doors to the church.

- A message regarding the change will be put on the church’s answering machine.
- A message will be put on our website at www.emmaus-lutheran-church.org and on Facebook at facebook.com/emmauslutheranchurchlcms.
- An automated phone call will go out to Emmaus members.

Calls from this system will show up on Caller I.D. as coming from a 1-800 or 1-888 number, but the recorded message you hear will be from Emmaus. If there is a certain phone number that you would prefer we use for important notifications from Emmaus (your cell phone, home phone, etc.) please talk to Maria in the office.

Do you receive our weekly email? If you do not receive the weekly email from Emmaus, please talk to Maria in the office. Having current email addresses for our email list helps make sure everyone gets important Emmaus updates.