

A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 1, 2024

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRELUDE

"LOST IN THE NIGHT"

Krentz Organ

JEAN PONTIOUS

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy,

C **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P God of might,

C **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P God in our midst,

C **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Vss. 1, 2 & 5 LBW # 34



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (*People lighting candles come forward*)

8:30 A.M. – THE RATNAM FAMILY
11:00 A.M. – THE CANFIELD FAMILY

P As we begin the Season of Advent, we step into one of the most sacred rhythms of the Christian journey—a journey that invites us to live anew into the story of Jesus and the church, a story that we are called to embody and carry forward. Sometimes, we think we need to find a fresh way to tell it, to make it unique to this time and place. But there is also power in tradition, in singing the familiar songs, and retelling the stories of our beginnings. Advent is a time to prepare and make room in our hearts, not only for what’s to come but for the presence and promise of Christ that already surrounds us.

C **While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.**

P This morning this candle is lit, symbolizing the flame of hope; a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

C **O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **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.**

Sit

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST 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."

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

A ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

A ³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C ⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

- A ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- C ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**
- A ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- C ⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- A ⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.
- C ¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND 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.

After the reading:

- A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 21st chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: 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.

[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.

³⁴Be 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."

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC *“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”* 8:30 SERVICE WESSON **JEAN PONTIOUS**
11:00 SERVICE - **PRAISE AND WORSHIP BAND**

TO SUPPORT ADVEN
POINT CAMERA HEI



APOSTLES' CREED

A *Christians, what do we believe?*

C **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 is seated 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering (*especially*). In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died (*especially*). Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

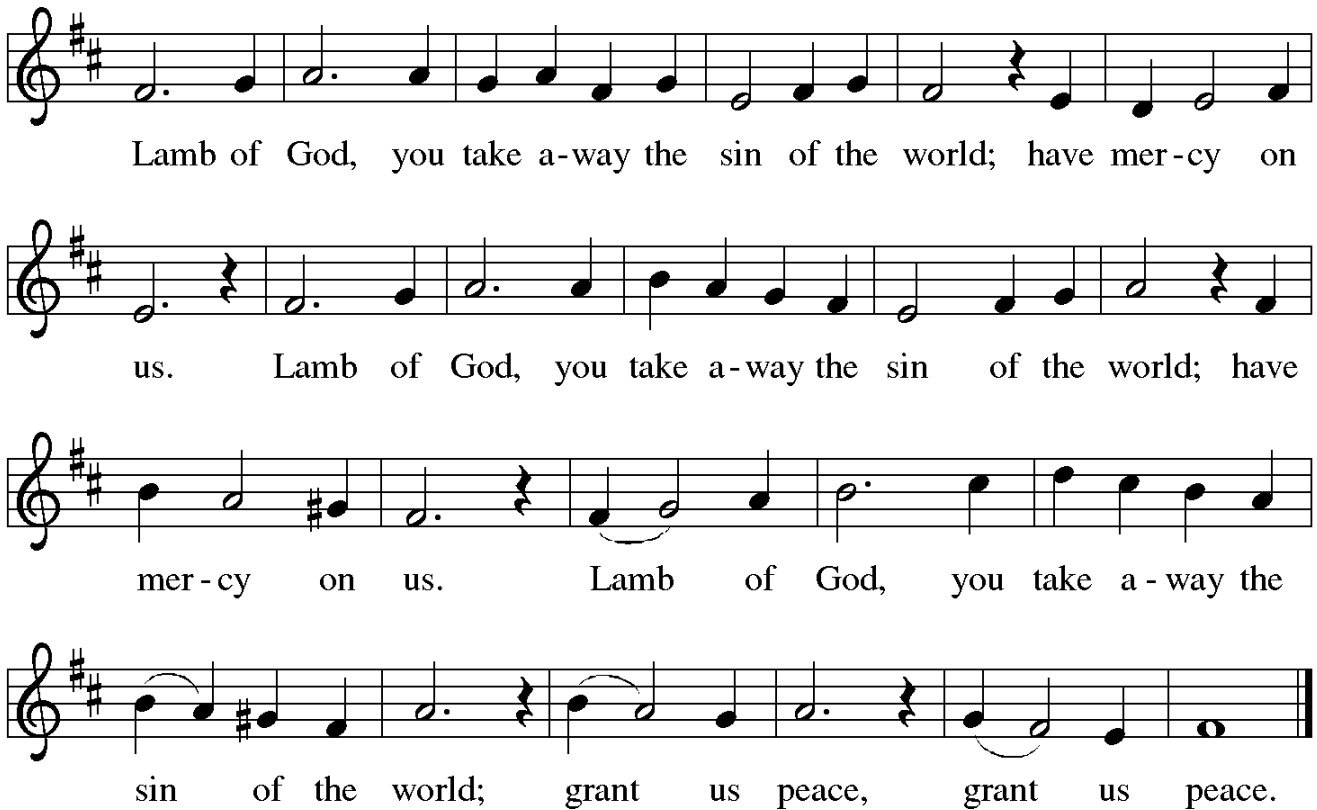
C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

Invitation to the Lord's Table – Believing in the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, this family of faith practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion when they are worshipping with us.

HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant, they say these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *The communicant may say: **Amen***
The blood of Christ, shed for you. *The communicant may say: **Amen***

This communion bread is free from: Gluten, Dairy, Nuts, Egg and Yeast.

Grape juice is available by request at the chancel rail.

After receiving the elements, you may return to your seats.

Please place your empty communion cup in the baskets provided on the first row of chairs.

P And now may the body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His most holy and precious blood, strengthen you and preserve you and keep you to true faith unto life everlasting. May we depart in peace and may the Lord be with you.

C **Amen**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE