



# *First Sunday of Advent*

**November 28, 2021  
First Sunday in Advent**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAYER**  
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Our Mission Statement  
Lutheran Church of Prayer walks with others and teaches the  
Word of God through relationships and personal example.

**Welcome Friends & Guests!**

We pray you will be blessed by our worship today. A welcome packet can be found at the Welcome Center Desk in our lobby. Please pick one up. Each family is asked to fill out an attendance card. Place the completed card in the offering plate. If you have a prayer request to be included in the service, please write your requests on the blue Prayer Requests sheet found in the pew rack and hand it directly to an Usher before worship begins.

**A Time for Quiet Meditation**

As you enter the sanctuary for worship you are encouraged to use this time for prayer and meditation to prepare your hearts to worship our Lord and to look over the worship bulletin. Visiting with friends can be done in the narthex area so others will not be disturbed. Thank you.

**Offering**

The offering is an act of worship for members and friends of Lutheran Church of Prayer, moved by God's love, to support the mission of the church. We do not want guests to feel obligated to participate. We want you to feel welcome and we truly wish to serve you! God bless you!

**Standing**

If at any time during the service it becomes uncomfortable for you to stand, please feel free to sit down, even if others are standing. God knows our strengths and understands our weaknesses too.

**Organist, Shirley Foster • Choir Director, David Ortiz**  
**Pianist, David Collins • Handbell Director, Judy Houston**  
**Praise Band Director, Tammy Poynor**

**Serving Us Today**

Pastor..... Rev. Hal Toenjes  
Elder..... Ken Campbell  
Ushers ..... Harry Kralej  
Reader ..... Ken Campbell  
Acolyte ..... Macy Arnold  
Altar Circle ..... Kristy Sturz & Kathy Vergon

## 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.

## Call to Worship

*Chimes*

**Prelude:**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

*Arr. by Hal Hopson*

**Welcome**

*Please Stand*

## Hymn of Invocation: 331 The Advent of Our King

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.

## Order of Service

*Setting 5, page 213*

*The order of worship and hymns are listed in this bulletin and will also appear on the screen in front. They are also printed in the hymnal--just turn to the number listed below.*

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution *Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;**

**let not my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast  
love,  
for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup>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!

**<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

**<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and  
faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

**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.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**P** Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

*One Advent candle is lit.*

## Candle Carol: 396 Arise and Shine in Splendor

1 Arise and shine in splendor;  
Let night to day surrender.  
Your light is drawing near.  
Above, the day is beaming,  
In matchless beauty gleaming;  
The glory of the Lord is here.

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## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Jeremiah 33:14–16*

<sup>14</sup>“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. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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.’”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 3:9–13*

<sup>9</sup>What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup>as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup>and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup>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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please Stand*

## **Creed: 953 We All Believe in One True God**

- 1 We all believe in one true God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Ever-present help in need,  
Praised by all the heav'nly host;  
All He made His love enfolds,  
All creation He upholds.
  
- 2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Mary's son,  
Who descended from His throne  
And for us salvation won;  
By whose cross and death are we  
Rescued from all misery.
  
- 3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,  
Who from both in truth proceeds,  
Who sustains and comforts us  
In all trials, fears, and needs.  
Blessèd, holy Trinity,  
Praise forever be to Thee!

Text: Public domain

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 21:25–36*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>[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, <sup>26</sup>people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup>As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“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.

<sup>35</sup>For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>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.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Please Be Seated*

## **Hymn of the Day: 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns**

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.
  
- 2 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.
  
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
When Christ, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death  
Despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes  
And we shall see His face.

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

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## **Sermon: “Advent Hope: Thankful Anticipation”**

*1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

**Offering:** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
*Arr. by Terry Kirkland*

*Please Stand*

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ’s coming,  
we turn to the Lord in prayer.

O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout  
the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the  
leaders, pastors, teachers, and all Your people to yearn  
for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in  
justice and righteousness, and all creation will be  
restored. We pray,

**C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

**P** O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

**C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

**P** O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, ... Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

**C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

**P** O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

**C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

**P** O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. We pray,

**C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

**P** O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

**C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

**P** You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**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.

## **Benediction**

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

## **Announcements**

*Please Stand*

## **Hymn to Depart: 894 For the Fruits of His Creation**

1 For the fruits of His creation,

Thanks be to God.

For His gifts to ev'ry nation,

Thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,

Silent growth while we are sleeping,

Future needs in earth's safekeeping,

Thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
For the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that love has found us,  
Thanks be to God.

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#### Acknowledgments

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## + What We Believe +

**God:** is Triune, Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Three Persons, One Essence. He is the only true God: *Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:4*

**Jesus:** is true God, equal to the Father and Holy Spirit, the only Savior of mankind. *John 5:23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 20:28*

**Sin:** all mankind is wicked; by nature the human race is spiritually blind, dead, broken in heart/mind, and in need of restoration with God and each other. God's wrath abides on all. *Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23, 7:15, 18; Mark 7:20-23; John 3:36.*

**Justification:** Sin and God's wrath against it has been dealt with by God through the death of God the Son on the cross. All have salvation through the blood of Jesus where our Father no longer holds our wickedness and sin against us but declares us righteous. We have peace again with God through faith in Jesus. This good news gives believers hope, peace, joy, and love to live as Christians. *Romans 5:1-10; John 3:16, 36; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:1-2; Corinthians 5:18-21.*

**Conversion:** to faith in the Savior is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (spoken, written, and sacramental). In the message of the cross God gathers His family. *Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23; John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:3.*

**Holy Baptism:** is a gracious work of the Holy Spirit Who creates faith, washes away sins, and connects us to Jesus and His body the church. *John 3:5-6; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13.*

**The Holy Spirit's Work:** Converted through faith in Jesus our human nature still threatens our unity with God and each other. Reconciliation, that is repentance and faith, is the daily rhythm of believers. Guilt and sorrow are promptings of the Holy Spirit for us to speak with God confessing thoughts, words, and actions asking Him for forgiveness in Jesus' name. *Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 10:19-25.*

**The Lord's Supper:** or Holy Communion is Christ's True Body and Blood, where He is really present in the bread and wine to assure us of forgiveness. We gather to receive Jesus often because we daily sin much and are in constant need of His power to live the Christian life of faith, hope, and love/charity. *John 6:53-59; 15:5; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16.*

**Scripture:** is inspired by God, without error and is our solid guide to life. *John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16.*

**Creation:** happened according to Genesis 1-2. Evolution is unscriptural, unscientific, and unnecessary. *Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Coming:** of Jesus will be sudden/unexpected. *2 Peter 3:10; Mark 13:32; Matthew 24.* We are living in the New Testament era where we rule with Jesus in the activity of sharing His message of love. *1 Corinthians 15:23-26; Ephesians 2:1-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Revelation 20:4-6*