



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 28, 2021 – 8:30AM First Sunday of Advent

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

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH REFRAIN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW #257 (*refrain only*)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Please sit or kneel in silence.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

(stand) GATHERING HYMN

“Wake, Awake for Night is Flying”

ELW #438

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE *ELW page 147, setting four*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *ELW page 149, setting four*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **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) READING: Jeremiah 32:14-18

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."

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

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

⁶**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

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

⁹He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(stand) GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW page 151*

 **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.**

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord

[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. ³⁴“Be 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.”

The Gospel of our Lord. . . **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit) SERMON

(stand) HYMN OF THE DAY

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW #264

BAPTISM OF ANNIE WREN BARNES

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Let us welcome the newly baptized: **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

(sit) PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The next few minutes provide you a musically accompanied time of reflection of how you may offer to God your whole self in service of God's mission. Financial gifts may be left in the metal bucket sitting at the doors or provided electronically through the GIVE page on our website / St. John App. Your gift given today continues our purpose of "Joyfully taking God's love into the world!" Thank you!

OFFERING MUSIC

(stand) GREAT THANKSGIVING *ELW pages 152-153, Setting four*



The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and joy..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORDS PRAYER

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

Taste and see that God is good.

COMMUNION SONG

"Now We Join in Celebration"

ELW #462

(sit) POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Most High God, **you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

(stand) SENDING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

ELW #267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Brian Julin-McCleary

Musician: Steve Peters

Reader: Gloria Spiegel

Song Leader: Carolyn Jensen

Communion Server: Carol Mae Osborn

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