

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The King Shall Come to Bring Us Hope

December 1 & 2, 2018

AS WE GATHER

While the secular calendar won't switch to 2019 for another month, the Church Year begins anew today. Advent is a season of waiting and preparation. One Advent tradition is to mark the four Sundays in Advent with four words that encompass what Jesus brings as He comes into the world to be our Immanuel—God with us. These four words are hope, peace, joy, and love. Today we focus on hope. There is a lot of suffering in the world, but hope exists in Christ's incarnation, death, resurrection, and return.

WELCOME

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”

Isaiah 60:1,3

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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.

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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: God came to Adam and Eve after they had sinned.

People: He clothed them, hiding their shame.

Pastor: God came to Israel when they were enslaved in Egypt.

People: He delivered them out of the house of slavery.

Pastor: Christ was born into our world.

People: He cast out demons, healed our diseases, and preached good news to the poor.

Pastor: Christ came into Jerusalem on a donkey.

People: And He died and rose again for us and for our salvation.

Pastor: Christ promised He will come again.

People: We wait for His return and the resurrection of the dead.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.

HYMN

“The King Shall Come to Bring Us Hope”

The King shall come to bring us hope To save us from despair.
Descending from Mount Olive's slope Christ showed His humble care.

We light this candle to recall The praise our Lord is due.

Our palms and loud hosannas fall To greet the one King, true.

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CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We remember His arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We long for His glorious return. As we wait, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that our faith has been lacking. We have not abounded in love for one another or for you. Our hearts are filled with blame and shame, with corruption and conceit. Forgive us, strengthen our faith, and purify our hearts.

Pastor: Jesus not only comes as an infant at Christmas and in glory at His return, but He also comes to you in words of forgiveness and life. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: 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. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your kingly majesty we may be protected from our enemies and be joined to your humble and holy reign; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✂ **WORD** ✂

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 33:14–16* (A righteous Branch will spring up for David.) "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.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 3:9–13* ("May the Lord make you increase and abound in love.") For 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.

(Rise)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 19:28–40* (Jesus' triumphal entry)

And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #332 "Savior of the Nations, Come" *Rise last stanza*

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

(Rise) Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

SERMON **"Abounding in Love"** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

(Rise)
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.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Almighty God, we give you thanks for bringing us to the end of one church year and to the beginning of another. As you have kept us in the past, we pray also that you would keep us in the days to come. Teach us to be faithful in all things, grateful for all your gifts, urgent in your work and hopeful for Christ's coming. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Eternal Lord, we long for an end to the struggles of this mortal life and for the start of everlasting life in the perfection to come. Keep us from becoming content with this life and from despair over the burdens of the flesh. Keep us looking and longing for the life of the world to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of life, we know how easily the good things you have supplied can be used for harm instead of good. Deliver all who struggle with addiction, restore us when we fail and fall, and bring us the strength of your Word and Sacraments to sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of grace, we rejoice with people who once welcomed your Son with palms and hosannas, and we pray you to grant us a true faith, welcoming Him who comes to us in His body and His blood. Feed and nourish us in Christ, that we may renounce ungodliness and live righteous and holy lives to the praise of your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, we enjoy the many and rich blessings you have showered upon our nation. Grant to us wise and faithful leaders who will serve the common good. Establish your peace among the nations, and bring to an end the evil, terror and violence in our world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of healing and hope, we face illness, pain, suffering, grief and death, but not without your grace to comfort us or your hope to encourage us. Give grace to each as they have need, recalling especially before you this day your servants Don, Al, Barbara, Larry, Marge, Dolores, Bob, Herb, Cliff, Cindy, LuEva, Dick, Nancy, Jan, Shirley, Gladys, Russ, Arlene, John, Jack, Arlene, Shirley, Jonathan, Leonard and Sarah. Sustain them through their afflictions that they may rejoice in your promises. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of every blessing, we rejoice in your daily goodness that you pour out on us abundantly. We join with Dalen and Pam in thanksgiving to you as they celebrate 39 years of marriage and all of life's blessings. Help us always to love and cherish the people you place in our lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, we claim nothing as our own, for all things come from you. Accept the worship of our lips, the service of our lives, and the tithes and offerings we bring in Jesus' name. Use us and all things for your glory, for the blessing of those in our care and for the support of your Church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, we pray not as we ought but as we are able, trusting in your mercy to supply us with all things needful and beneficial. Keep far from us all things harmful, that we may be kept holy and blameless to the day of Christ's coming; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ **SACRAMENT** ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

HYMN

"O Lamb of God, You Take Away"

O Lamb of God, You take away Each sin that leads our hearts astray.
Have mercy on us, great High Priest, And lead us to Your endless feast.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Your hope is here, O Israel.

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(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #333 "Once He Came in Blessing"

Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

Soon will come that hour When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

HYMN #349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne And every voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'ns eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

HYMN #343 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

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

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

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!

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

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

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

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:

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

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith as we wait for the day of His coming, that we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

CLOSING HYMN #350 “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne’er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my quest divine!

My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail! Hosanna, David’s Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist

Pastor Noah Kegley
Pastor Harold Bender
Russell Hurst, Laurel Privatt, Melissa Leon
Emily Yakel, Brooklynn Hoffman, Ashley Matusewic
Jo Bender

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