

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Your King Is Coming!

November 26 & 27, 2016

5:00 pm & 8:00 am

AS WE GATHER

What do we do when an important guest is coming over to visit? We clean the house, prepare the dinner menu, put on nice clothes, and do many other things in anticipation. Beginning a new Church Year is also a time of getting ready. We prepare ourselves not to welcome just any important guest though, but once again to welcome the King—our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who comes in the flesh to His people. No matter our housecleaning, dinner plans, wardrobe, or anything else, the most important preparation we are called to is a readiness of our hearts and minds. This Advent season is a time of preparation—to prepare ourselves to welcome Him who came humbly as a king by earthly standards, yet the King we welcome by faith as Savior and Lord. More than that, we continually prepare ourselves in repentant joy to receive Him who humbly yet powerfully still comes to us in Word and Sacrament by His Holy Spirit.

WELCOME

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #331 "The Advent of Our King" *Rise for the last stanza*

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

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

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

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

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

(Rise) All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, as we begin this season of Advent, let this wreath and the candles progressively lit each week remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. As the prophet Isaiah writes in today's Old Testament Reading, "It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say:

People: **"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths. . . . Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD."**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, Savior and King, the true light who comes into this world, bless us as we light this candle in the beginning of our preparation for your coming. Enter our hearts and minds with the light of your love that we may welcome and receive you with joy as our true and eternal King; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Your word is a lamp to my feet

People: **and a light to my path.**

The first candle is lit.

SONG "Thy Word Is a Lamp" AGPS #247

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,

People: that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Pastor: "Hosanna to the Son of David!

People: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

HYMN #332 "Savior of the Nations, Come" Stanzas 1 & 2

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.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that often we have welcomed and received
you with our lips, but have not welcomed nor received you as the King
you are.

**People: We have dishonored and disobeyed you with our thoughts, words, and
actions. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Pastor: Have mercy on us, O God;

**People: for the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us, renew us, and lead us that we
may walk in your will and follow your ways to the glory of your holy
name. Bring forth new life and lasting light in us today and in this
Advent season, that we may honor and serve you as our true King in
and above all things.**

HYMN #332 "Savior of the Nations, Come" Stanzas 5 & 6

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.

Pastor: Out of His great love for us, God sent His only Son, Jesus, into our sinful
world to be born in flesh and live in our midst, to die for our sins, and to
rise from the dead, giving us forgiveness and life. As a called and
ordained servant of the Word, and at the command and by the promise
of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the
Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord!

**People: Hosanna in the highest. Come, Jesus, our Lord and King, and fill us with
peace and joy. Amen.**

HYMN #332 "Savior of the Nations, Come" Stanza 8

Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our King,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ **WORD** ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 2:1-5* (When the King comes, the mountain of
the Lord will be established and there will be peace.) This is what Isaiah son of
Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the
LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised
above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

EPISTLE *Romans 13:(8–10) 11–14* (Called to walk in the light at the coming of our Lord and King) Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM *"Lo, How a rose E'er Blooming"* Choral setting by Larry Shackley

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:1–11* (Jesus enters Jerusalem in humble yet kingly triumph on Palm Sunday.) As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethpage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from

the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."
(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #348 "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.

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.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.

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

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

SERMON *"Leaving the Darkness to Live in the Light"* Romans 13:8-14

(Rise)

NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(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: Since we have a great High Priest, Jesus the Son of God, who intercedes for us before the Almighty God, let us approach the throne of grace, confidently believing that our Lord will both hear and give answer to our

petitions and supplications. Blessed Lord, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your paths. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may abandon the ways of darkness and sin and walk in the light of Christ.

People: Lead us by your Holy Spirit, day by day, that we may shine forth the Light of Christ, living in holiness and purity, doing good works in the name of Jesus, who redeemed us by His blood.

Pastor: Mighty Lord, in a world of war and violence, terror and fear, we cry to You to silence the voices of hate and bring peace to the nations. Raise up for us good and faithful leaders in this and every land who will respect and protect life.

People: Bless our leaders with honesty and integrity, that they may fulfill their calling faithfully and responsibly, and serve to promote and defend liberty and justice for all people.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, as once your people welcomed your Son with palms and hosannas, so grant us faith to welcome Him who comes to us now in His Word and Sacrament.

People: Grant us to live in His Light as we look forward to His return in glory to judge the living and the dead, and bring to completion all that He began.

Pastor: Holy Lord, create in us new and contrite hearts, that we may confess our sins and rejoice in your holy absolution.

People: By the power of your Holy Spirit, fill us with the desire for all that is good and right and holy according to your will and your ways.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, comfort those in pain of body or spirit, relieve those who suffer, and give healing to all in need especially Virginia, Jim, Cathy, Marion, Matthew, Henry, Eleanor, Arlene, Mae, Jerry, Wendy, Carol, Jerry, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Richard, Roemelle, LuEva, Kathleen, Jean, Russ, Helen, Leonard, Linda, Gladys, Jack, Shirley, Sarah and those whom we name in our hearts.

People: According to your gracious will, answer the prayers of your people who cry to you, sustain them in the day of trouble and grant them patience in their afflictions.

Pastor: Loving God, as we remember the start of another church year and begin anew our journey to Bethlehem, recalling the birth of your dear Son and

our Savior, grant us the aid of the Spirit, that we may be well instructed by your Word.

People: Strengthen us also in faith and equip us to live our lives in love and service to others.

Pastor: Giving Lord, you have so richly supplied us with material blessings. Keep us, we pray, from being distracted by this world and its treasures.

People: Guide us to trust fully in the true treasure of your grace that will not pass away.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we thank you for the gift of relationships. We join with Rick and Jodi as they rejoice in their 30th wedding anniversary. Bless Lou Ann as she celebrates her mother's 90th birthday.

People: Help us to treasure all the people you place in our lives as precious gifts from your hand.

Pastor: Faithful Lord, we give you thanks that you have marked us as your own in Baptism, given us your Spirit to teach our hearts to believe and destined us for everlasting life in Christ.

People: Give us lips to testify to your goodness and words to speak in witness to the love that has saved us.

Pastor: Blessed Lord, remembering the faithful who lived and died in Christ and now rest from their labors, especially Lou Ann as she remembers her father; grant us to live in the same faith, trusting your mercy and grace.

People: When Christ comes in His glory, grant us to welcome Him with praise and hosannas and enter into the everlasting feast He has prepared for all who love Him.

Pastor: All these things, O Lord, we pray, knowing that you, in your fatherly wisdom and care, will grant us what is good and right for us and for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
 Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(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 # 537 “Beautiful Savior”

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
 Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I’d love Thee,
 Truly I’d serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
 Robed in flow’rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
 He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
 Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,
 Jesus shine purer Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
 Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
 Praise, adoration Now and forever-more be Thine!

HYMN #525 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
 Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
 Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
 And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin’s Son, The God incarnate born,
 Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
 Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
 The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
 Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
 No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight.
 But downward bend their wond’ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o’er the grave
 And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
 His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
 Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav’n, Enthroned in worlds above,
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n The wondrous name of Love.
 Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
 Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

HYMN #842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
 Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,
 You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead;
 Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs and help our need.

As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others love.
 Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.
 Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;
 We but stewards of Our bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
 Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.
 By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,
 Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
 Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race;
 By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,
 Grant, O grant our hope’s fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: “Blessed is He who comes,

People: who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve you; 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: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,

People: that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Pastor: As our Savior and King still comes to His people, let us go forth in peace and with the blessing of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #353 “Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Brining news of sins forgiv’n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav’n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv’n.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate’er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Children’s Ministry

Acolytes

Organist

Choir Director

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Marc Stefanic, Grant Gundersen, Jim Laux

Laurel Privatt

Breyanna Rudig, Elena Gonzalez Clark, Claire Igielski

Michelle Prince

Nancy Hoelke

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Let's Go to Bethlehem



This is the theme of our midweek services during the season of Advent. Bethlehem, which means “House of bread,” has a prominent history in Scripture even though it is such a small town. On the way to the little town, Jacob’s beloved bride Rachel was buried after dying in giving birth to Benjamin. When a widow returned to Bethlehem with a Moabite daughter-in-law, scandal was rampant . . . until a “kinsman redeemer” named Boaz stepped in to help out. When King Saul lost his kingship, God sent Samuel to a shepherd of Bethlehem named Jesse. One of

Jesse’s sons would be the new king.

Of course, above all, Bethlehem is the prophesied birthplace of the Savior of the World. Even as the prophet Micah had proclaimed: **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” (Micah 5:2)** And so our little Lord Jesus would be born, fulfilling prophecy and filling our hearts with hope, peace, and joy through the love He brings! The themes are as follows:

November 30 – Let’s Go to Bethlehem with Ruth

December 7 – Let’s Go to Bethlehem with David

December 14 – Let’s Go to Bethlehem where Christ was Born

The December 14 service is our St. Paul’s Lutheran School Christmas program. It is always such a blessing to see our students share the story of Christ’s birth.

The services are each Wednesday, at 10:00am and 6:00pm. The evening service is preceded by an Advent meal which begins at 4:45pm. November 30: Homemade chicken noodle soup, ham and cheese sliders, chips, pickles & ice cream sundaes. Come and share in the joy of our preparations for the most joyous birth the world has ever witnessed: the birth of Christ!