

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
The Promised Savior Comes
November 29 & 30, 2014

AS WE GATHER

Advent means “coming.” In this special season of the Church Year, we reflect on the comings of Christ to earth. We think of that coming to a certain place at a certain time in history when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We know the time and the place of that coming, and we rejoice in the salvation that event brought for us. But that advent is only one of the “comings” we consider in this season. We also anticipate our Lord’s coming again in power and glory at the end of earthly time. That coming is just as certain as was His coming in the flesh some two thousand years ago!

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT

Gideon’s International

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,
"who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8, NIV)*

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #331 “The Advent of Our King” *Rise for the final 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.

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.

OPENING SEQUENCE *Jeremiah 14:22*

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we are called to be people of hope. The prophet Jeremiah exclaimed, “Are you not He, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you.” With the Church through the ages we call to the Lord in hope.

People: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people: Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

ADVENT HYMN “Come, O Lord, We Wait in Hope”

(Sung to tune: LSB #374 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”)

Come, O Lord, we wait in hope, Prayer, and expectation.
Make our hearts to know the peace Of Your blest salvation.
Come, O Lord, our Morning Star, Light of light forever.
May our lives reflect the glow Of Your grace, O Savior.

Come, Lord Jesus, as the King Long anticipated,
Witnessed in prophetic Word, Joyfully awaited.
Come, Lord Jesus, and subdue Foes that would distress us.
Be our true and lasting joy; By Your advent bless us.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

People: Eternal God, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves in many ways. We have refused to bear the troubles of others and have turned away from our neighbors in their need. We have ignored the pain of the world and have not fully shown care for those who are hungry, poor, or oppressed. O God, in your mercy, forgive our sin, and free us from selfishness and indifference, that we may joyfully follow your will and gladly obey your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

People: Amen.

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.

HYMN #357 **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** Stanzas 1-3

During the singing of the hymn, the first candle on the Advent wreath is lighted.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**
(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 64:1–9* (God is the Potter, and we are the clay.)

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come

to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:3–9* (Paul is thankful for the Christians at Corinth.)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and in all your knowledge-- because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 13:24–37 (The coming of the Son of Man in power.)

"But in those days, following that distress, " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back--whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' "

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #332**“Savior of the Nations, Come”**

Stanzas 1-3, 7-8

Rise for the 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.

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

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

SERMON**“Great Expectations”****Isaiah 64:1-9**

(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: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. As we begin the holy season of Advent, rend the heavens and come down, O Lord. Prepare us to celebrate anew the miracle of your incarnation.

People: Let us be faithful witnesses to the true reason for the Christmas season of celebration and goodwill. Give us hearts that long for the return of Christ, who comes to deliver us from this world filled with trials, trouble, and strife.

Pastor: Thank you, God, for the gifts of life you have given us and the opportunity to celebrate them. We rejoice with those who celebrate anniversaries and

birthdays, especially the Burkee family as they celebrate Marge’s 93rd birthday.

People: According to your good pleasure, grant them each many more years to celebrate and witness to your goodness.

Pastor: We pray for those in need. Lord of life, we intercede for those who are sick or suffering. Today we particularly remember Dolores, Arline, Ken, Ginger, Robert, Pastor Stanton, Gretchen, Jack, Mark, Richard, Rosalie and Sarah. In the midst of their trouble, be the rock to which they can always go.

People: Enable them to wait upon you to renew their strength, and in your time, grant them relief.

Pastor: Guide and govern those who make, administer and interpret our laws. Protect us from danger and grant us strength in times of trial or temptation. By your grace, grant us to stand firm in the faith.

People: Thank you, Jesus, for the unconditional love, the unfailing mercy and the everlasting life you won for us on Calvary. Blessing and honor and glory and might be yours, Savior — now and forever!

Pastor: Almighty God, we pray for the work of our Concordias, the universities and seminaries alike. Jesus told His disciples to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field. We need faithfully trained men and women to serve your Church in so many different ways.

People: Bless and direct those who teach and those who learn, so that together we can boldly bear witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, your Word calls us to live holy lives — lives set apart for your purposes. Bless our congregation. Work among us by your Holy Spirit. Work through your Word and Sacraments to enlighten us and keep us in the faith.

People: Grant us grace to live out, each and every day, the truth we hear in your house of worship.

Pastor: Receive our sacrifice of thanksgiving for all those who have departed this life trusting in the Savior.

People: Bring us to share with them the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Pastor: Into your hands, heavenly Father, we commit all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ, 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.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(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 #642 "O Living Bread from Heaven"

O living Bread from heaven, How well you feed your guest! The gifts that you have given Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, wondrous food of blessing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this gift possessing, With praises overflows.

My Lord, you here have led me To this most holy place And with yourself have fed me The treasures of your grace; For you have freely given What earth could never buy, The bread of life from heaven, That now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted; This food can death destroy. And you have freely granted The cup of endless joy. My Lord, I do not merit The favor you have shown, And all my soul and spirit Bow down before your throne.

Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened With heav'nly food, while here My course on earth is lengthened, To serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit To leave this world below, I enter, through your merit, Where joys unmingled flow.

HYMN #342 "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God's design.

As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world Would rally to the cross.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword – Come, open heaven's door.

HYMN #334 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.

Your Zion strews before You Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I too will adore You With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.

I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.

Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.

He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are you, heavenly Father, for you have once again fed and nourished us at your Table through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As Lord of our lives, strengthen and support us so that we may continue to proclaim your love to all the world. Bless us day by day and keep us hope-filled as we await your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #341 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven’s employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov’ reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Manley Hurst, Bob Reynolds, Grant Gundersen

Jennifer Moyle, Aidyn Roska, Isaac Kallas

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller

Advent Worship

10:00am & 6:00pm each Wednesday in Advent

December 3rd “Preparing for the Perfect Gift”

December 10th “Gazing upon the Perfect Tree”

December 17th “The Perfect Family Gathering”

~ Advent Dinner ~

December 3rd

Cream of Chicken Vegetable Soup, French Bread,
Fresh Vegetables with Ranch, Hotdogs, Chips, Pickles
& Dessert