

## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Waiting for Christ  
December 2 & 3, 2023

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### AS WE GATHER

Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power and glory on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until His ultimate revealing on that Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting His promise to make us guiltless in His sight. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

#### MINISTRY MOMENT – Melissa Graf – Homebound Christmas Cookies

"Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established;  
it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult,  
and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy."

Psalm 96:10-12

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

#### OPENING HYMN #331 "The Advent of Our King"

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

1 continued

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 & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Our soul waits for the LORD;

**People: He is our help and our shield.**

Pastor: For our heart is glad in Him,

**People: because we trust in His holy name.**

Pastor: Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

**People: even as we hope in you.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Confident in His steadfast love, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of waiting on you and clinging to your promises, we impatiently go our own way. Instead of loving our neighbors as ourselves, we put our wants first and serve our interests instead of yours, O God. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: “You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:7–8). Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, taking away our guilt and giving us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our Savior and King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**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 to us

**People: as we wait for your arrival.**

Pastor: Protect us by your hand that we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins

**People: and saved by your mighty deliverance;**

Pastor: 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 64:1–9* (“Behold, please look, we are all Your people.”) Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.<sup>4</sup> From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the

wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. <sup>8</sup>But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 1:3–9* (We wait for Jesus, who sustains us and takes our guilt away.) <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**8:00 BELLS** *“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 11:1–10* (Our King enters His royal city as His people wait for Him.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’”

<sup>4</sup>And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup>And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

(Be seated)

### CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### HYMN #364

#### "Away in a Manger"

Stanzas 1 & 3

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

#### SERMON HYMN #332 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

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.

5 continued

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

#### "Rend the Heavens and Come Down"

Isaiah 64:1-9

(Rise)

#### NICENE CREED

**People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who Proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** 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 folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, sustain your saints to the end as we enter another Church Year. Encourage the preachers of your Word and all who hear to trust the promise of Christ's coming in glory.

**People: Give us patience and perseverance as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ and His glorious kingdom.**

Pastor: Give boldness and faithfulness to Matthew, our Synod president; John, our district president; Hal, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ.

**People: Renew the faith and quicken the love of all Christians, that we may be enriched in all our ways, words, and actions.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant your blessing to all marriages and keep all husbands and wives faithful to each other. Guide them as they care for the children entrusted to them.

**People: Bestow your loving care upon all children who have suffered abuse or neglect, as well as upon all who open their homes to children in foster care.**

Pastor: Almighty God, behold our nation and its leaders, blessing them with wisdom and integrity as they serve among us.

**People: Protect our armed forces, bless and keep our first responders, taking them under the wings of your care.**

Pastor: Visit us in your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow and the dying from their fear, especially do we pray for Jim, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Don, Pat, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Helga, June, Shirley and Sarah.

**People: May all who cry to you receive healing according to your will and grace to sustain them in their time of affliction.**

Pastor: God of compassion and comfort, bless and be with Al Weil and family as they remember Judy who passed away just two years ago.

**People: Fill them and all who miss loved ones with the hope of the resurrection, the peace of Christ, and the longing for the life of the world to come.**

Pastor: Merciful Lord, your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, entered Jerusalem to shouts and cheers of joy as the people of old cried out for salvation.

**People: Grant that we may be stirred by the Word and Sacraments to rejoice anew as we feast on the body and blood of Christ, preparing for His second advent.**

Pastor: Gracious Father, you have made us glad to enter into your presence to hear the good news of our Savior and receive your gifts. Preserve your Church against all her enemies, and lead us to walk in your ways and to follow your paths, that when Jesus returns in His glory we may welcome Him with glad hosannas; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People: 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.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

#### PAX DOMINI

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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 HYMNS

##### 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 #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 guest 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.

##### HYMN #620 "Jesus Comes Today With Healing"

Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing,  
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.

He Himself makes preparation, And I hear His invitation:  
"Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding  
In this holy sacrament,  
Gives the bread of life, once broken, And the cup, the precious token  
Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,  
Blood and body, giv'n for me,  
Very Lamb of God from heaven, Who to bitter death was given,  
Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'nly power, Gives Himself to me this hour  
In this ordinary sign.  
On my tongue His pledge receiving, I accept His grace, believing  
That I taste His love divine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me, With a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
God, my shield from ev'ry tremor, Cleanses me from sin and error,  
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

#### COMMON DISMISSAL

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

**People: Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of waiting that, on the Day of His arrival, we may rejoice forever as those you have redeemed;**

Pastor: 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: Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

**People: even as we hope in you.**

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 #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.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Organist

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen

Gary Knight, Katie Scepanski, Krystal Wilson

Olivia Kukor

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# Peace Came to Earth

Services @ 10am and 6pm each week

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1 – December 6, 2023  
**Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near**

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2 – December 13, 2023  
**Peace to All, Near and Far**  
*(Our 3K, 4K and Kindergarten classes sing)*

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3 – December 20, 2023  
**Our Peace Rests on Him Alone**

**Advent Suppers at 4:45pm before the evening service.**

December 6 – Tacos & Nachos

December 13 – Sloppy Joe's

December 20 - Chili