

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
What Are You Waiting For?
November 30 & December 1, 2019

AS WE GATHER

How would you answer if someone asked, “What are you waiting for?” In church, you might think of Jesus’ return on the Last Day, but our Readings point us back to the present moment. There is no time to wait, for our Lord might return today. He will usher in the kingdom of God with both judgment and grace. Confident of grace, we now stay awake and prepare, as Jesus urges in the Gospel. In Romans, Paul writes that such preparedness means walking properly, as if we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” When the Kingdom breaks in, then, Isaiah writes, it will be like beating “swords into plowshares.” We can’t wait!

WELCOME

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. (Isaiah 64:4, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN #333 **“Once He Came in Blessing”** Stanzas 1-3
#333

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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Stay awake,

People: for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Pastor: For salvation is nearer to us now

People: than when we first believed.

Pastor: They shall beat their swords into plowshares,

People: and their spears into pruning hooks.

Pastor: I was glad when they said to me,

People: “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our Lord urges us to stay awake and watch for His return, when He will usher in the kingdom of God. Paul tells us to “cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

People: In our fallen sinful condition, our thoughts, words, and deeds often reflect the fallen world around us. Heavenly Father, forgive us for Jesus’ sake, and by your Holy Spirit turn our feet to walk in ways pleasing to you. Awaken our faith that we greet you whenever you return.

Pastor: Our Lord’s first coming was to save us—to die and rise in our place. When He returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, in which He promised through Isaiah, “He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Isaiah wrote, “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” Jesus warned, “Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.” Let us pray. O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

People: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

HYMN “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

Soloist: Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word.
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
but there is room and welcome there for me, and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find Him as they said: sweet newborn babe, how frail!
And in a manger bed: a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled?
With pounding heart I stare: a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned its way into my heart –
unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me,
and not alone for me?

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,

**People: that by your protection we may be rescued from the
threatening perils of our sins 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 2:1–5* (In the kingdom of God, we will learn to walk in the way of the Lord; it will be a time of peace.)

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 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: “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.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their

swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 13:8–14* (Paul urges loving living as we await Christ’s return.)

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 BELL ANTHEM “*Emmanuel/Savior of the Nations*”

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 24:36–44* (Jesus warns against not being alert for His return.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.

Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was

coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

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.

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

SERMON "Faith Flows Upward"

(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.

8:00 BELL ANTHEM "Prepare the Royal Highway"

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Knowing that we are now nearer to the day of salvation than before, let us come with even greater urgency and plead on behalf of all of God's people and everyone according to their needs.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . 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

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

“O Christ, the Holy Lamb of God”

O Christ, the holy Lamb of God, Who takes away the whole world's sin,
Have mercy on us now, we pray, And grant Your heav'nly peace within.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, 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 #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.

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.

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.

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: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; 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 #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!

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Noah Kegley
Russell Hurst, Jim Laux
Griffin Lemberger, Alexis Plumeri, Carolyn Baars
Michelle Prince

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Advent Mid-Week Worship

“The Hope of the Ages”

December 4 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Advent Dinner served at 4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall:

Hot sliced ham, macaroni & cheese, tossed salad, dessert, hot dogs, chips, carrots for kids.