



**“...you know
that the kingdom
of **GOD** is
near.”**

LUKE 21:31

First Lutheran Church

2808 South Avenue West

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021



LCMS

(In an effort to keep everyone safe we ask that you please take this bulletin with you or dispose of it as you leave.)

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Missoula, MT

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As We Gather

Advent is a season for us to grow in hope. Today's Readings acknowledge the distress and fear that the world's foundations are being shaken. And right in the middle of it all, there is hope. Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Luke 21:33). The prophet Jeremiah declares God's promise to restore His people and all creation. If we were left to ourselves, there would be little room for such hope. But God does not leave us alone. By His Word and Sacraments, God establishes our hearts and prepares us for Jesus' coming final restoration. Until that day, we wait, we pray, we hope.

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn LSB 334

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en 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.

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Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Jeremiah 33:14–15; Luke 21:27, 33, adapt.

- P** The LORD says, "I will fulfill the promise I made to the houses of Israel and Judah."
C We thank You, O Lord!
- P** The LORD says, "My righteous Branch will cause justice and righteousness to spring up."
C We adore You, O Lord!
- P** The LORD says, "You will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."
C We praise You, O Lord!
- P** The LORD says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."
C We worship You, O Lord!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One Advent candle is lit.

- P** Let us pray.
O Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 25:6-7

- P** Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.
- P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.
- C** **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**
- P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
- C** **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent



1 For - give us, Lord, for times when hope was lost, And
mo - ments when we nev - er thought to trust, For
times when we de - spair and for - get That
You are where all joy and truth have met.
For - give, for - give, for - give us all our
sins And help us hope and trust You with - out end.

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- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

- P** Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.
- C** **Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?**
- P** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.
- C** **Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,**
- P** who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted.
- C** **For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- P** Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection
- C** **we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins**
- P** and saved by Your mighty deliverance;
- C** **for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Psalm

Psalm 25:1–10; antiphon: v. 6

- P** Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- C** **To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.**
- P** O my God, in You I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.
- C** **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**
- P** Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
teach me Your paths.
- C** **Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation;
for You I wait all the day long.**

- P** Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- C** **Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

- P** Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
- C** **He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.**

- P** All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
- C** **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

“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.’”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

G **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.**

Children's Sermon



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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Sermon

Rev. Steven Carlson

✠ ✠ ✠ **Our offerings are received at the Altar** ✠ ✠ ✠

Prayer of the Church

- P** As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.
- P** O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to yearn for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in justice and righteousness, and all creation will be restored. We pray,
- G** **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Desire of nations, bless all those who hold authority on this earth. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially* . . .]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

(Please rise)

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

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Announcements

Please complete the "Friendship Pads" found at the inside aisle holder in each pew and pass it to the others in your row. We especially ask our visitors and guests to share their information with us, so we can stay in touch!

Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

G Thanks be to God.

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