

First Sunday in Advent

December 2 & 3, 2023



Peace  
Lutheran Church  
NEENAH, WISCONSIN—LCMS

# First Sunday in Advent

December 2 & 3, 2023

## 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).

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

## GREETING

P: Peace be with you,

C: And also with you.

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and enkindle in our hearts the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. We wait in hope for the Lord!

## HYMN "The Advent of Our King"

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

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

Δ 6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76 Text and tune: Public domain

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## INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**INTROIT** *Ps. 25:1–3; antiphon: Zech. 9:9b, alt.*

P: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C: **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.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: **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.**

P: “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.

C: **Amen.**

## **SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** 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.

**C:** Amen.

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**Choir – (Sunday) “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>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.

E/P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **EPISTLE**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<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 spiritual 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.

E/P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

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## HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

### C: Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>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!"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### C: Praise to You, O Christ.

## APOSTLES' CREED

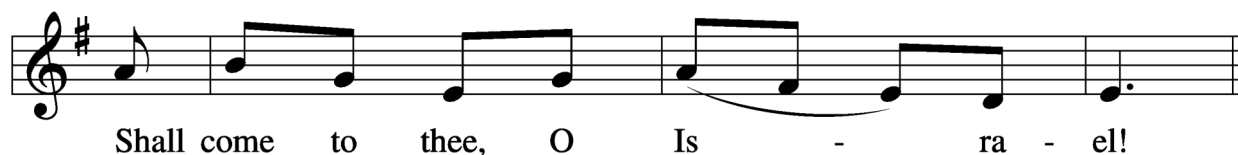
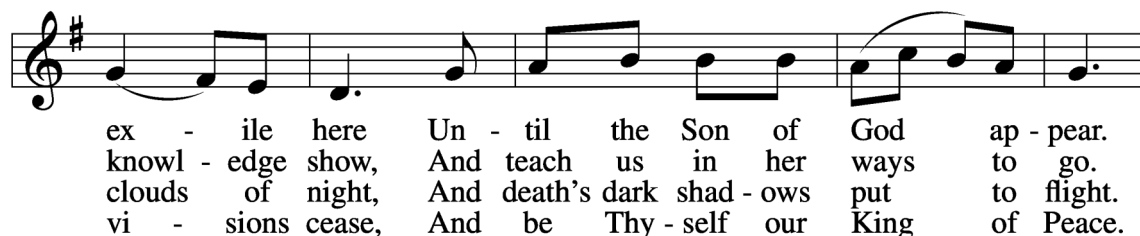
**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from 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.**

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## HYMN OF THE DAY "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB 357 v. 1&2, 6&7



1	O	come,	O	come,	Em -	man -	u -	el,	And	ran -	som
2	O	come,	Thou	Wis -	dom	from	on	high,	Who	or -	d'rest
6	O	come,	Thou	Day -	spring	from	on	high,	And	cheer	us
7	O	come,	De -	sire	of	na -	tions,	bind	In	one	the



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

## GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

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## OFFERTORY “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven Text and tune: Public domain

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: As we wait in hope for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His Advent people, bring our prayers before Him. Gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your goodness and mercy that follow us all the days of our lives. You are our God; we are Your people. You have purchased and won us from sin and death by the sacrifice of Your Son upon the cross and by His rising from the grave. As He now sits at Your right hand, exalted over all things, we wait expectantly for the Day of His revealing.

**C: We wait in hope for the Lord!**

P: Mighty King and loving Savior, we thank You for the authority You have over all things in heaven and on earth. To a world in disarray and for a people filled with despair, You alone offer hope, peace, and certainty that all things are in Your hands. Help us to trust in You, Lord Jesus, even as we wait for the redemption You will provide on the Day You come again to judge the living and the dead. Bless the land in which we live and all those who serve for the benefit of us all. Be present in our homes, our schools, and our workplaces that Your provision be known to all.

**C: We wait in hope for the Lord!**

P: Healer of the broken and sustainer of the weary, grant the comfort of Your Holy Spirit to all who are suffering in heart, body, mind, and spirit. Remind those who are downtrodden that they are never alone, and use us as Your people to reach out in care and compassion to those in our family, our community, and within this congregation who need Your healing mercies, [*especially . . .*]. By Your Will, be with each of these, granting to them your peace, comfort, and healing.

**C: We wait in hope for the Lord!**

P: Lord Jesus, we are Your waiting, expectant, hope-filled people. We anticipate the Day of Your revealing when Your saving work will be fully complete and when You renew and restore all things in heaven and on earth. Until that glorious Day, help us to rely upon Your grace alone, which declares us guiltless in Your sight through faith in Your promises. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying,...

**C: We wait in hope for the Lord!**

### **Special Prayers**

P: Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into Your merciful hands, for You, O Father, live and reign with the Son and

the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for the mercy You show us in Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our King.

**C: You have rescued us from the guilt of our sins and revealed Your mercy to us in the cross and resurrection of our Savior.**

P: As we await His final coming, we gather before You to remember His sacrifice for us. Prepare our hearts to receive the redemption He provides through His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His holy name and in the timeless words He has taught us:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C 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.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** (Spoken by the pastor.)

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST & PAX DOMINI**

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

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

**C: Amen. We wait in hope for the Lord!**

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## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

"Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come"

LSB 350



1	Come,	Thou	pre - cious	Ran - som,	come,	On - ly	hope	for		
2	En -	ter	now	my	wait - ing	heart,	Glo - rious	King	and	
3	My	ho -	san -	nas	and	my	palms	Gra - cious	- ly	re -
4	Hail!	Ho -	san -	na,	Da - vid's	Son!	Je - sus,	hear	our	





sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
 Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
 ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
 sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
 will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
 will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.  
 we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## “Once He Came In Blessing”

LSB 333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y  
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

## “Jerusalem the Golden”

LSB 672



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—  
 2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,  
 3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,  
 △ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!



The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—  
 As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.  
 Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.  
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!



We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:  
 The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;  
 They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,  
 In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest



The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!  
 The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.  
 Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.  
 With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–95, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

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## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: 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.

C: **Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end;**

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: 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.  
C: Amen.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN "Sent Forth By God's Blessing

LSB 643

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,  
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,  
The peo-ple of our God from His dwell-ing take leave.  
The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.  
The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed  
Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,  
The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.  
Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.  
The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,  
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;  
Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.  
U-nite us as one in this life that we share.  
His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us  
Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing  
To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.  
Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

## THE SENDING

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

**Welcome to Peace** in the name of the Risen Savior!

**We request that visitors register** by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. We ask that you share your name and address so that we can recognize your visit with us. All members are requested to register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. Members, please indicate all family members present and those who took communion, so that the Pastor and Elders can be spiritually accountable for you and your family.

**Are your cell phones turned off?** Cell phones are indeed a great convenience in life these days. However, please, out of courtesy, silence cell phones during the worship service. Thank you!

**Hearing assist devices and large print bulletins** are available for those who may need them. Please see an Usher or the Elder who will be happy to assist you.

**A Mother's Room is available** for parents of young children if the need arises. The Mother's Room in the west hallway. The worship service is able to be heard in the Mother's Room.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion. Scripture teaches that Holy Communion is a sacred act, established by Christ Himself and is given to His Church. As members of **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**, we hold the doctrine of the Real Presence, in with and under; meaning that Jesus gives His Body and Blood with the bread and wine, as He Himself says, *"This is my body... This is my blood... for the forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:26ff)

The Holy Scriptures also teach us to receive this meal in a way that is responsible and healthy. As overseer, St. Paul wrote- *"let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself"* (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Out of genuine care for God's people we ask that those (1) who have not been baptized and instructed in the faith or (2) who come from another church body, not in altar or pulpit fellowship with us, refrain from receiving Holy Communion.

For those preparing to receive Holy Communion, Luther encourages us to ask ourselves these questions:

Do **I repent** of my sins, desiring to turn away from them, back to the Lord?

Do **I believe** Jesus died and rose for me and gives me His Body and Blood this day "for the forgiveness of sins"?

Do **I intend** to use this means of grace to change my life, following His will and way?

We ask that all who receive the Lord's Supper fill out a "Care Card" and place it in the offering plate. Please note that reduced-alcoholic white wine is available in the center cups of the communion tray.

### Peace Lutheran Church The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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Ricky P. Schroeder, Pastor  
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### WORSHIP SERVICES:

Holy Communion Celebrated at all Services

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00a.m.

Sunday Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (Sept. –May) 10:30 a.m.

Website: [www.peaceneenah.com](http://www.peaceneenah.com)

YouTube: Peace Neenah

