

Worship Service for Advent 4

7:30 - December 24, 2023

Theme of the Day: Have you ever been in an airline terminal when a plane is late? No one knows for sure when it is coming. But it *is* coming! Using this analogy, let's unpack 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 where Paul points out how to faithfully wait for Christ's Second Coming.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

C **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

Women: The LORD has made his salvation known

Men: **And revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

Women: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

Men: **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

C **Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,**

P Burst into jubilant song with music;

C **Make music to the LORD with the harp,**

P With the harp and the sound of singing,

Women: With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn;

Men: **Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.**

Women: Let the sea resound, and everything in it,

Men: **The world, and all who live in it.**

P Let them sing before the LORD,

C **For he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

P Lo! He comes with clouds descending.

C **Once for every sinner slain.**

P Thousand, thousand saints attending;

C Swell the triumph of his train. Alleluia!

P Christ the Lord returns to reign!

Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB # 338 (Tune: Hyfrydol)

Confession and Absolution:

P "You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness." (1 Thessalonians 5:5) And yet, O Lord, we have much to confess:

C **Forgive us, O Lord;**

P For the sins of the night;

C **For clinging to the darkness.**

Men: For secret and hidden sins,

Women: **For the sins we have done to please ourselves;**

Men: And for the sins we have done to please others.

Women: **Forgive those sins which we know**

P And those sins which we do not know.

C **Forgive our sins of apathy;**

P Callous indifference,

C **Shriveling submission,**

Men: Failure to protest injustice,

Women: **Forgive our sins of greed,**

Men: Giving only what we can spare,

Women: **Hoarding smiles and love and mercy.**

C **And in it all, forgetting you, O God.**

P Believe and receive the Gospel! "God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:9) Your sins are forgiven, forgotten and drowned in the sea of Christ's cleansing blood. *Maran-atha!* (This is an Aramaic expression, appearing in 1 Corinthians 16:22, and meaning "Our Lord, come!")

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

Hymn: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" LSB #345

Prayer of the Day:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 35:1-10

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Mark 13:32-37

Sermon: Faithfully Watching and Waiting

Hymn: "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" LSB # 336 v. 1-2

Nicene Creed:

**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.

Prayers:

P Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. That God may bring with his kingdom grace and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may live in holy confidence because God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That as all sons of the light and sons of the day we may not be like others, who are asleep, but alert and self-controlled; let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That God would bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may shine forth as lights for the world, encouraging all with the certainty of Christ's return, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

+ Additional Prayers +

P Yea, amen, let all adore Thee.

C **High on Thine eternal throne.**

P Savior take the power and glory,

C **Claim the kingdom as your own. Alleluia!**

P Thou shalt reign and Thou alone!

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

Pax Domini

LSB 197

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have
mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have
mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant
us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB 357 v.1,5,6,7

Distribution Hymn "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" LSB #348

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

P "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **The one who calls us is faithful and he will do it."**

Hymn: "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" LSB # 336 v. 3-4

Silent Prayer: Lord Jesus, I fall down before you in wonder and praise, for by your grace I most certainly have a ticket to ride! Amen and amen!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 3 & 5 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion 10 a.m.