



## **First Sunday in Advent**

November 29, 2020

# ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

## FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's eternal love for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing, or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the bathrooms, should you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment.

## WORSHIP SERIES: THE PROMISE

Advent is a time of promises. When God makes a promise, he keeps his promises, and his promises do not disappoint. In this series, we will be encouraged by three promises from the book of Isaiah. God the Father promised to redeem and protect his children, he promises them comfort and forgiveness, and he promises freedom and joy. On the last Sunday of Advent, we will move forward to the Gospel of Luke to see the greatest promise—the promise of Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus Christ is the answer to every promise God has given us! This promise will not disappoint.



**Today's Focus:** In today's gospel, Jesus urges us to watch and pray for his return. Our sermon today brings the urgency of Isaiah's lament into our prayer and life as Christians. We long for God to demonstrate his power to deliver us, but what we need most is his mercy to forgive us and shape us to be his own, like a potter shapes clay in his hands. Our God comes to us in answer to our urgent plea. He redeems us as his dear children.

## PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

*Almighty and eternal God, Lord, heavenly Father, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. Open and enlighten our minds that we may have a pure, clear and holy understanding of your Word, and then afterward, that we have a right understanding of ourselves and our lives, so that we may never displease your divine majesty; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**OPENING PRAISE**

**Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, Weak and wounded, sick and sore,  
Jesus, ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and pow'r.**

**I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh.**

**I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden, Lost and ruined by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better, You will never come at all.**

**I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms.**



## INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ + be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## CONFESSION

M: For Christians, Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. As John the Baptist once prepared the people of his generation for Christ's first coming by proclaiming repentance and forgiveness of sins, so today we begin our preparations for the Lord's second coming by repenting of our sins and being forgiven. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**Most merciful God, I confess that I am sinful and unclean. I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and deeds, both by what I have done, and by what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart, and I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I deserve your punishment – now and forever. But for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in your will, and walk in your ways to the honor of your holy name. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

M: As proof of God's great mercy, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sin. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Savior who paid for all our sins, give us peace of mind and the assurance that we are the loved and forgiven children of a gracious God.

**C: Amen.**

## Lighting of An Advent Candle

M: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

**C: We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.**

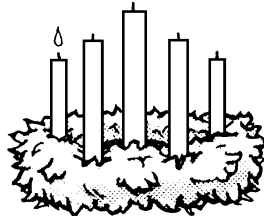
M: We hear his call to watch.

**C: We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*One Advent candle is lit.*



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: *Let us pray:*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

PSALM 126

God Has Done Great Things For Us

*Cross Rhythms Refrain:*



God has done great things for us,



filled us with laugh ter and mu - sic; \_\_\_\_\_



God has done great things for us, filled us with



laugh-ter and mu - sic. \_\_\_\_\_

**Repeat Refrain (All):**

*Cross Rhythms: When our God led us back to freedom,  
Like dreamers we beheld the promised land again.  
Our mouths were filled with laughter and rejoicing.*

**Refrain (All):**

*Cross Rhythms: We proclaimed to the nations what God has done for us;  
Your mighty deeds of love, restoring us to life,  
You lead your people home to you rejoicing.*

**Refrain (All):**

*Cross Rhythms: Come restore our fortune, renew us in your love,  
As rivers through the sand, as springs within the desert;  
Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.*

**Refrain (All):**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

### 1 Peter 3:18-22

*God himself gets us ready for his coming. He washes us from the corruption that merits his judgment, through the washing of water by the Word. He grants us salvation even before his coming judgment.*

<sup>18</sup> Because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup> These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. <sup>21</sup> And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*STAND*

### GOSPEL

### Mark 13:32-37

*Jesus comes in grace! Jesus comes in judgment! Knowing that, we do well to turn our eyes away from the glitter and the clutter of the world and focus on our need for his coming. We eagerly prepare by repentant watching.*

<sup>32</sup> “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

*BE SEATED*

SERMON PRAISE

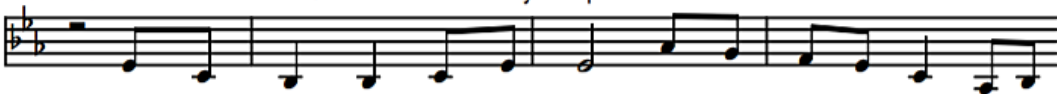
Every Promise of Your Word



1. From the break - ing of the dawn to the set - ting of the  
 2. When I stum - ble and I sin, con - dem - na - tion press - ing  
 3. When I'm faced with an - gushed choice, I will lis - ten for Your  
 4. Hope that lifts me from des - pair; Love that casts out ev - 'ry



sun, I will stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.  
 in, I will stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.  
 voice and I'll stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word,  
 fear as I stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.



Words of po - wer strong to save, that will ne - ver pass a -  
 You are faith - ful to for - give, that in free - dom I might  
 Through this dark and troub - led land, You will guide me with Your  
 Not for - sa - ken, not a - lone, for the Com - for - ter has



way, I will stand on ev' ry pro - mise of Your Word.  
 live; so I stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.  
 hand as I stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.  
 come; And I stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.



For Your co - ve - nant is sure and on this I am se -  
 Guilt to in - no - cence re - stored, You re - mem - ber sins no  
 And You've pro - mised to com - plete ev - 'ry work be - gun in  
 Grace suf - fi - cient, grace for me; Grace for all who will be -



cure, I can stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.  
 more. So I'll stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.  
 me. So I'll stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.  
 lieve. We will stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your Word.



You, the LORD, are our Father.

Our Redeemer from everlasting is your name.

<sup>17</sup> Why do you cause us to wander from your ways, LORD?

Why do you harden our heart so that we do not fear you?

Return for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes that are your heritage.

<sup>64:1</sup> Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down.

Mountains then would quake because of your presence.

<sup>2</sup> As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil,  
make your name known to your adversaries.

Then nations would quake in your presence.

<sup>3</sup> You did amazing things that we did not expect.

You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence.

<sup>4</sup> From ancient times no one has heard.

No ear has understood.

No eye has seen any god except you,  
who goes into action for the one who waits for him.

<sup>5</sup> You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness,  
who remembers you by walking in your ways!

But you were angry because we sinned.

We have remained in our sins for a long time.

Can we still be saved?

<sup>6</sup> All of us have become like something unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.

All of us have withered like a leaf,  
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls on your name,  
who rouses himself to take hold of you.

So you hid your face from us.

You made us melt by the power of our guilt.

<sup>8</sup> But now, LORD, you are our father.

We are the clay, and you are our potter.

All of us are the work of your hand.

**Father, Be There for Me**

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.

## OFFERING

*Those who wish to give an offering today may place it in the offering plates near the door when exiting the chapel after worship.*

*The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. However, we do ask that everyone take part in completing the connection card. Whether you are worshiping in person or watching online, please fill it out now or later at [www.eternal-love.org/onlineworship](http://www.eternal-love.org/onlineworship).*

## OFFERING PRAISE

**Trust in You**

*By Lauren Diagle, Michael Farren and Paul Mabury*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger, but also to the skies where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

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

*STAND*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING OF THE LORD**

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

CLOSING SONG

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



1. *(Whistle)*
2. "For give our sins as
3. How can your par - don
4. In blaz - ing light your
5. *(Whistle)*
6. Lord cleanse the depths with -



*(Whistle)*  
 we for - give" You taught us, Lord to pray, but  
 reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart that  
 cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew: what

*(Whistle)*  
 in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease: then,



*(Whistle)*  
 you a - lone can and grant us grace to  
 broods on wrongs and will not let old  
 tri - vial debts are owed to us how

*(Whistle)*  
 bound to all in bonds of love our



*(Whistle)*  
 live the words we say.  
 bit - ter our - ness de - part?  
 great our debt to you!

*(Whistle)*  
 lives will spread your



6. peace, our lives will spread your peace.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our songs of praise today are accompanied by **Cross Rhythms**,  
one of our congregation's own musical groups.

Liturgist: Pastor Dave Pries

Preacher: Pastor Dave Backus

Scripture Readers: Dennis Oldenburg (8:00 am)

Chris Zimmerman (10:45 am)

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### **Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**

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### **God Has Done Great Things For Us**

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### **Every Promise of Your Word**

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### **Trust in You**

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### **Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive**

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### **Holy Bible**

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