

ADVENT

**WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR
He humbles His People**

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

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. Activity sheets for your child are available from the ushers as well.

ADVENT SERMON SERIES: **When The Lord Comes Near**

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as Judge and Savior at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high when the Lord comes near.



THEME OF THE DAY: **WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR, HE HUMBLER HIS PEOPLE**

People tend to feel a lot of pressure this time of year. We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to meet the Lord: only repentance. You see, Jesus is not someone we need to impress with our good works. Indeed, repentance is the opposite of work. Repentance is the humble admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by him.

OPENING PRAISE

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Christian Worship #13



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, A
 2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; Get
 3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; The



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, A high - way for our God! The
 peo - ple The com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, And he shall right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, The lof - ty
 flow'rs of the field they per - ish; Like grass their
 feed his flock like a shep - herd, The lambs shall



hills brought low; Make straight all the crook - ed
 works de - cay. The pow'r and the pomp of
 gent - ly hold, To pas - tures of peace shall



pla - ces Where the Lord our God may go!
 na - tions Shall pass like a dream a - way;
 lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.

STAND

INVOCATION

In the name of God the Father –

Who said that he would send the world a Savior;

In the name of Jesus Christ, God the Son –

Who came to die for us, and who now lives to come for us;

In the name of God the Holy Spirit –

Who comes through the Scriptures to bring us joy and peace;

In the name of this great God, the one true God, we begin our worship!

Amen.

BE SEATED

CONFESSION OF SINS

Soon the Lord Jesus, who came once in great humility, will come again in great glory with all his holy angels. He will stand as the Judge of all people. With Jesus as our Savior, he prepares us for that great day. We turn to our God for his faithful mercy:

Heavenly Father, if you were to condemn me to eternal damnation, it would be the punishment that I deserve. And so I come to you for mercy and grace. Because your Son has suffered the penalty of my sin, and because his blood has made me clean, I seek your forgiveness, and take refuge in his cross. Forgive me, O Lord, for the sake of my Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The Lord is merciful and full of compassion. In fact, his mercy devised a way to bring us forgiveness. He sent his dear Son to pay the horrible price of our sin. And when Jesus took all our sin and suffered its full penalty on the cross, God declared us forgiven. So rejoice and sing for joy, as you receive the Lord's own promise: Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved. As a called servant of Jesus Christ, I announce the grace of God to you, forgiving your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-7b

Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord humbles his people, purifying our hearts so that we might stand on the Last Day.

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

²But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers' bleach! ³He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

⁴Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

⁵I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies.

⁶Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. ⁷Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

Producing love and humility within us is God's work. He began his good work at our baptism and will carry that work to completion.

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. ⁸Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. ¹⁰This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Young children may come forward for a brief devotion.

SERMON PRAISE

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Christian Worship #16; Please rise for verse 5



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.



SERMON

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.

⁶And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

BE SEATED

You Can See Better from the Road

OFFERING

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 or scan the provided QR code to do so now.



OFFERING PRAISE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer:

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

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

STAND

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

May the grace of the Lord Jesus sanctify us and keep us from all evil.

May Christ drive all hurtful things far from us and purify both our souls and bodies.

May Christ bind us to himself by the bond of love; and may his peace abound in our hearts.

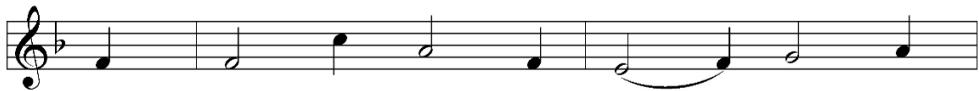
Amen.

BE SEATED

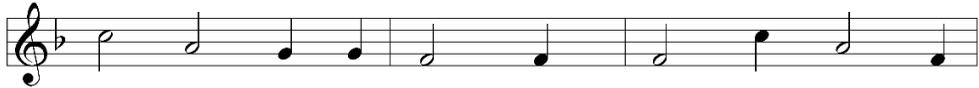
CLOSING PRAISE

Arise, O Christian People

Christian Worship #14



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in -
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



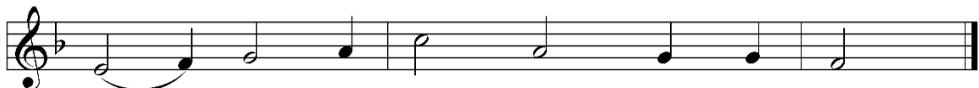
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and
 straight, make plain the way; The low - ly
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Dave Backus
Scripture Readers: Dan Wallander (8:00 am)
Dylan Elliot (10:45 am)
Accompanist: Ben Rusch

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. ASCENSION Tune: Henry H. Bancroft, b. 1904-1988 Irregular. Setting © Estate of H. H. Bancroft All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License A-703840.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5 PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
Tune: Latin melody, 15th century, adapt. LM. Text and tune: public domain, Setting © A.R. Mowbray & Co., Ltd. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License A-703840.

Arise, O Christian People

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607-62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, st. 1-3, alt.; AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt. 76 76 67 76 Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt. Text and tune: public domain. Setting © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License A-703840.

Holy Bible

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