

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2024
10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Introduction

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

Real Worries, Real Hope

“Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.” With these words, often invoked at the table of holy communion, the church proclaims “the mystery of faith” (ELW, p. 110). At communion, we remember the good story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. But there is more! We also look forward to a time yet to be.

Thoughts of the future can inspire hopefulness for the promise of good things to come. Yet looking ahead can also conjure worries about what we do not know, or a sense of foreboding about what is out of our control. It’s hard not to hear in Jesus’ references to nature a warning about the dramatic effects of climate change. We inhabit a world in which ordinary signs that used to reliably mark the change of seasons are shifting. So when he talks about the trees sprouting leaves as a sure sign that summer is near, the image may leave us unsettled. In recent times, trees in some places have started budding when meteorological spring and summer are still months away. How will the trees respond when frost comes again? How is the church to respond in times such as these? Will the fig tree bloom on time this year?

Jesus’ parable of the fig tree comes smack-dab in the middle of some very disturbing news. Jesus offers an image of hope amid circumstances that seem all but hopeless. He talks of new growth even while what is old and familiar is passing away. Much like Jesus’ parable, the season of Advent invites the church to hold together these multiple, seemingly contradictory realities. We are called to rise up with courage and hope as we anticipate Jesus coming to us, without ignoring the weight of the world or neglecting our very real concerns. Jesus gathers us to the table where we remember his death but also his resurrection, where we pray for the world and also anticipate God’s redemption of all things.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pr. Tom Rutherford

** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In remembrance of their baptism, all may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free. **Amen.**

Let us come before the living God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation, **we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, † Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

** GATHERING SONG

“Come, Emmanuel” | Chancel Choir

Response, sung during the verses:



Come, O come, Em - man - u - el.

Verse 1

Cantor: You are Wisdom, from the mouth of God.
You are Wisdom, playing before God.
You are Wisdom, wondrous Word of God.
You are Wisdom, loving friend to God.

**All: Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Refrain: All

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall
come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Verse 2

Cantor: You are Wisdom, mother to us all.
You are Wisdom, truth told to us all.
You are Wisdom, promise to us all.
You are Wisdom, banquet set for all.

**All: Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Refrain: All

Verse 3

Cantor: You are Wisdom, straight our paths to you.
You are Wisdom, hearts on high to you.
You are Wisdom, here we watch for you.
You are Wisdom, open arms to you.

**All: Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Refrain: All

**** GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**** KYRIE**

Assistant Minister

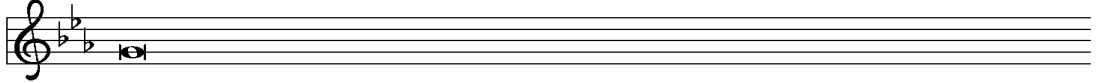
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.


For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



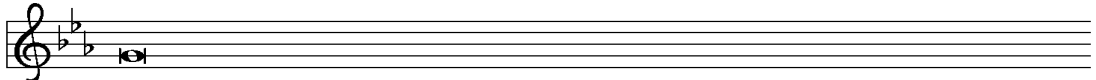
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,




and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**** LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come, **let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

Advent Week 1 - December 1 Verse 1

Advent Week 2 - December 8 Verse 1, 2
Advent Week 3 - December 15 Verse 1, 2, 3
Advent Week 4 - December 22 Verse 1, 2, 3, 4

Verses



1. Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish
2. Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish
3. Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish
4. Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish



dark - ness. He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el,
dark - ness. He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd,
dark - ness. Lift your heads, and lift high the gate - way
dark - ness. He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings.



God ful - fills the prom - ise.
gent - ly lead them home - ward.
for the King of glo - ry.
Let your lights be shin - ing!

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says 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 live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever 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, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a sequence of notes: a quarter rest, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a half note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' are written below the notes. The second staff also begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains a sequence of notes: a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G. The lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

**** GOSPEL READING**

Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 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, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pr. Tom Rutherford

HYMN OF THE DAY

Messiah

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)
For all You are, all You have done,
We worship You, Eternal One-
Savior and Lord forevermore,
You are Messiah.

(Verse 2 - All)
**Down on our knees, pleading as one,
Together we pray Your kingdom will come.
In Heaven and earth, Your will be done,
You are Messiah.**

(Chorus - All)

**Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
You are Messiah.**

**Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
You are Messiah.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**Radiant hope, we long for You.
Deep in our hearts, Your Word is true.
Be lifted up in all we do,
You are Messiah.**

(Chorus - Music Ministers/All)

**Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
You are Messiah.**

**Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
You are Messiah.**

You are Messiah, oh!

(Verse 4 - Music Ministers)

**For all You are, all You have done,
We worship You, Eternal One-
You are the Lord forevermore;
You are Messiah.**

Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come.

(Chorus - All)

**Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
You are Messiah.**

Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your kingdom come,
You are Messiah.
You are Messiah.
You are Messiah.
You are Messiah.

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Each intercession concludes: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another .

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table. **Amen.**

For those of you communing at home or in the pews.

** COMMUNION HYMN

Lost in the Night (ELW 243)

1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
 4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;

long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
 riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,

plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.
 bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.

Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?
 Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?
 Christ is com - ing soon! Christ is com - ing soon!
 Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

** BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Soon and Very Soon (ELW 439)



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.

Hallelujah, thanks be to God!

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

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