

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 9 & 12, 2021

The Season Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. The Church looks for the coming of her Savior in this threefold advent: his coming in the flesh; his return in judgment; his daily coming in Word and Sacrament. The Church encompasses all these facets of the season in the single word that defines Advent worship: "Come!" Throughout the prayers, verses, and lessons that single word is our invitation, our anticipation, our sure and certain hope. Come, Lord Jesus!

The Sunday This Sunday captures the heightening anticipation of the coming Savior. Each lesson reinforces the "good news" on which the Gospel lesson ends. Those who anticipate the arrival of the Christ rejoice, because the Lord and his deliverance is near. The Lord is coming: Rejoice!

Gathering Rite Advent 2021

Music chosen for the seasons of the church year has the capacity to set the tone for a particular celebration. This year during the first two Sundays of Advent we will use O Lord, How Shall I Meet You as our Gathering Rite to set a tone of expectant preparation for Christ's coming.

Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Your word, LORD, is eternal;
it stands firm in the heavens.

**C: Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.**

Psalms 119:89,105

(sung) **O Lord, how shall I meet you,
How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
My Hope, my heart's Delight.
O Jesus, let your Word be
A lamp to light my way,
To show me how to please you,
To guide me ev'ry day.**

M: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

**C: Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran
Synod



Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we
Gather
around the **Gospel**
to help people
Grow
in the **Gospel**
and
Go
with the **Gospel**

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

M: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

**C: Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice**

Psalm 51:1-2,7-8

(sung) **Sin' debt, the fearful burden,
Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
A heritage in heav'n.**

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☐ and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen.

(sung) **He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to his foes,
Alight of consolations,
And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams most cheering,
And guide us safely home.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Nehemiah 8:9-18

As the returning exiles celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time since settling back into Jerusalem, they listened to the Lord's instruction. When the people heard the Law of God, they were filled with sorrow and dread. They wept at the Word of the Lord when they considered their lives. We, too, need to weep as we hear the Law of God, but God comes to us with a message able to make us rejoice even in the face of our sinful shortcomings, "Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”

¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

¹³ On the second day of the month, the heads of all the families, along with the priests and the Levites, gathered around Ezra the teacher to give attention to the words of the Law. ¹⁴ They found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in temporary shelters during the festival of the seventh month ¹⁵ and that they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem: “Go out into the hill country and bring back branches from olive and wild olive trees, and from myrtles, palms and shade trees, to make temporary shelters”—as it is written.^[a]

¹⁶ So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves temporary shelters on their own roofs, in their courtyards, in the courts of the house of God and in the square by the Water Gate and the one by the Gate of Ephraim. ¹⁷ The whole company that had returned from exile built temporary shelters and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. And their joy was very great.

¹⁸ Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly.

O Antiphons of Advent

The Great O Antiphons of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshipers. Each one consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking him to come and fulfill the Scriptural promise or prophecy.

M: Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior,
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the most High, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, our wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Lord of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai; come in your glory and redeem us.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O root of Jesse, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will give praise; come quickly to deliver us.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem.
From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save:
Bring them in victory through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Key of David, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows out to flight**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

C: (sung) **Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease
And be yourself the king of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

Second Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

As we anticipate the coming deliverance, Paul says, "Rejoice always," for "the Lord is near." Let our Advent joy be expressed in prayer and thanksgiving that stem from God's peace, given us in his transcendent gift of his Son as our Savior. So many parts of this sorted world seek to rob our joy in Christ. No wonder Paul told us twice: "I say it again, Rejoice!"

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10)

Stand

M: The Gospel according to Luke chapter 3.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

John minced no words in his message, neither to those hypocrites who did not want to listen to John's call to repentance nor to those believers who heeded John's call and desired to change their ways. So near is the Lord's judgment that the ax man has already placed his blade on the trunk to line up his first swing. Yet with repentance comes good news: the winnowing fork in his hand does more than expose the chaff in the winds of judgment, it gathers the wheat into his barn. Rejoice!

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

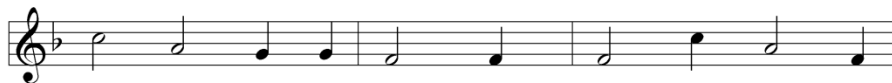
Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

Arise, O Christian People CW 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 -



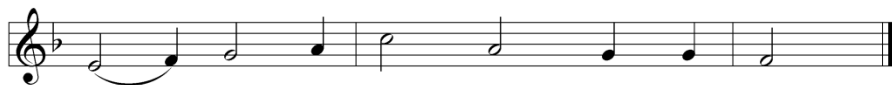
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
 ter - sor The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



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.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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.

© 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

THE SACRAMENT

Preface

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us to be his own that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy (sung)

1. O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

2. Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Be seated

<p>Communion Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. All WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor or an elder before communing.</p>
--

Distribution

Junior Choir

Come To Us (8:00 a.m.)

Stand

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

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 Hymn

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding CW 15:1,4

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the
near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -
works of dark - ness; You are chil - dren of the day."
last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 6th century, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: MERTON (87 87) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

Service of Word and Sacrament © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-725297