

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent
St. James Trinity Lutheran Church

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.” Jesus’ 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 Christ in word and supper.

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting: First Sunday of Advent—Hope

Responsive Litany

- R Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.
C We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to the darkness.
R Advent is a time to remember that God’s love extends to all people.
C We wait and hope for the One who will bring justice.
R Advent is a time to renew our determination.
C We wait and hope for the One who will bring righteousness.
R Advent is a time to strive for understanding.
C We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.

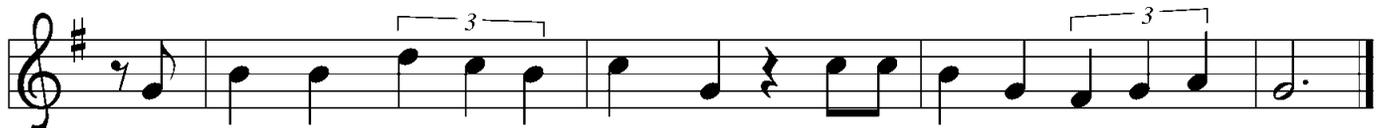
Advent Candle Lighting

R Today we light the first candle—the candle of hope—marking the beginning of our spiritual journey this Advent season. The light of this candle reminds us that hope begins with a spark that seems small and insignificant, but in time grows into a brilliant flame, a flame that quickly spreads, filling the darkness with light and bringing a renewed sense of hope to a world filled with doubt and fear.

Congregational Part (Sing 2x)



1 He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope



he came down that we may have hope; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

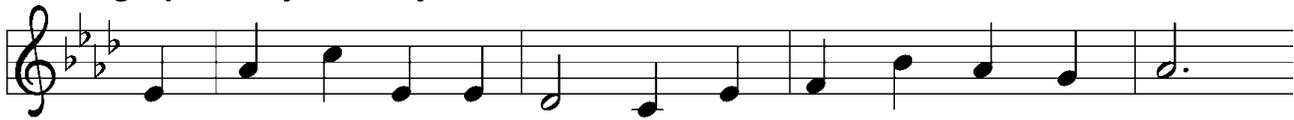
Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things. **C Amen.**

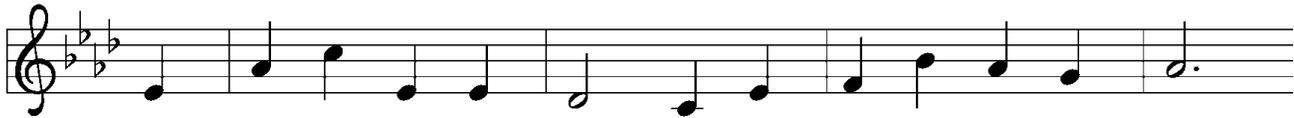
P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
(Silence is kept for reflection.)

C God for whom we wait,
**in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
✝ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **C Amen.**



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

C **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

Following the Children's Message, children can return to their families—there is no Sunday School this morning.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

A ¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

C ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

A ³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C ⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

A ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

C ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

A ⁷Remember 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.

C ⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

A ⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

C ¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Scripture 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.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“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, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Rick Biedermann



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Apostle's Creed

C 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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 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

P In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence, responding to each petition with "your mercy is great."

(A brief silence.)

P God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

P God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God...

C Your mercy is great.

P God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind especially those suffering from the recent tragedy in Waukesha and those who have asked for our prayers... *(Read Names)*. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

Prayers: Jeff Gerike and Family at the recent death of his father; Kim Schlais and Family at the recent death of her parents; Shelly Schwarz (Daughter of Gary & Opal Kunz); Beth Barnett (Pastor Rick's Sister); Cathy Kaeding; Bud Drehmel; Carol Cance; Eliza, Juan & Opal as well as those we name aloud or in our hearts.

P God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

P God of love, we pray for families raising young children in the faith, for the children, the parents, grandparents and baptismal sponsors. Send your Spirit to guide them and support them in their devotions and conversations. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

P God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **C Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

(If you are with someone in your safe zone you may share the peace with a handshake or hug. To share the peace with others you may make the sign of the cross in the air.)

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

Offering

(Offering plates will be available as you leave or you may mail or use online giving or texting for your offering. Links are at the end of the bulletin. For Text Giving: Text the Contribution Amount to 833.409.0619)

Offering Prayer

P Let us pray.

**C God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen**

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

P The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C Amen.



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

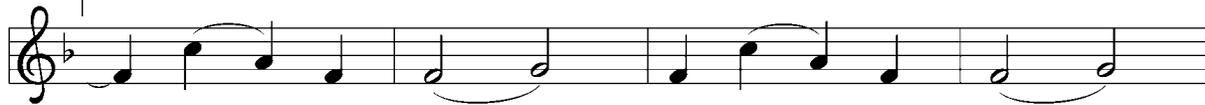


soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



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.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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Dismissal

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

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Today's Worship Servers

Lector: Deanna Schilling

Next Sunday's Worship Servers

Lector: Jamie Gerike

Announcements

- **CHRISTMAS DECORATING** – Please join us on Friday, December 5th, after worship, to decorate the Church for Christmas!
- **ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS** — Please submit your committee reports for our Annual Report by December 15th. Digital format preferred and can be emailed to Laurel at admin@stjamestrinity.org.
- **MASTER SINGERS PERFORM AT ST. CHARLES** — The Master Singers, Gary R. Schwartzhoff, conductor, will present their 29th Season of Lessons and Carols Series, Friday, December 10th at 7:30 pm and Saturday, December 11th at 4:30 pm at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eau Claire.
- **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** – There are devotionals available next to the bulletins for Advent.
- **ADVENT READING & CANDLE LIGHTING** – We are looking for people/families to do the Advent reading and candle lighting during Advent. There is a signup sheet on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** – Our Christmas Eve service will start at 4:30 pm in-person and live-streamed on Facebook, Masks are required but we are not able to guarantee that social distancing guidelines will be met. If this is a concern or if you have not been vaccinated, we encourage you to watch the live-stream.
- **WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONALS ON FACEBOOK** – Pastor Rick will be leading an Advent Devotional on Wednesdays at 5pm on Facebook.
- **MISSION OUTREACH SUNDAY** – The second Sunday each month will be Mission Outreach Sunday. In December, we will be supporting the Chippewa Valley Street Ministry.