

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

December 3, 2017

10:30 am



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

He Still Comes

AS WE GATHER

Sadly, there have been assassinations throughout history. Perhaps the death of Presidents Abraham Lincoln or John F. Kennedy comes to mind. If these leaders had known that death was on the horizon, would they have changed their itineraries? Would Lincoln still have gone to Ford's Theatre? Would Kennedy still have traveled to Dallas? Jesus is different. Jesus knows His death is looming. Yet He still willingly travels the road to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Jesus knows that cries of "Hosanna" will soon be drowned out by cries of "Crucify." Jesus knows the pain He will endure and the sin He will carry. But Jesus still comes. There's no change in travel plans. Jesus has come to earth for this very reason, to suffer and die so that, in faith, you have forgiveness and life.

GATHERING SONGS

PRESERVICE MUSIC

REVELATION SONG

Riddle

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain; Holy, holy is He;
Sing a new song to Him
Who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

**CHORUS: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.
Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
You are my ev'rything and I will adore You.**

Clothed in rainbows of living color flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory
And power be to You, the only wise King. **CHORUS**

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, At the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,
Such a marvelous mystery, yeah. **CHORUS**

Prepare
the way
of the
LORD.
ISAIAH 40:3

First Sunday
of Advent

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: ORDER OF WORSHIP



PASTOR LARSON

PASTORAL GREETING

Congregation, please stand.

OPENING SENTENCES *Mark 11:9–10*

Pastor: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: **Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!**

All: **Hosanna in the highest!**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *John 8:12; John 1:5; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 4:6*

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: **and illumine Your Church.**

OPENING SONG

JESUS MESSIAH

Tomlin

He became sin, who knew no sin;
that we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

**CHORUS: Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

His body, the bread; His blood, the wine;
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing. **CHORUS**

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the light of the world. **CHORUS**

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 64:6, 9*

Pastor: “We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”

Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: “Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all Your people.”

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**



Holy Baptism

Elle Lambert
LSB 268 - 271

(Sung as the Baptismal Party comes forward)

Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
Nest - ling bird or star in heav - en Such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.

WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9

(“Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down.”)

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: I Corinthians 1:3-9

(He will sustain you to the end.)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please stand.

Gospel: Mark 11:1-10

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting,

People: **"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"**

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathy Johnson

SONG OF THE DAY

HOSANNA

Tuttle

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Lord, we lift up Your name, With hearts full of praise;
Be exalted, oh Lord my God! Hosanna in the highest!

Glory! Glory! Glory to the King of kings! Glory! Glory! Glory to the King of kings!
Lord, we lift up Your name, With hearts full of praise;
Be exalted, oh Lord my God! Glory to the King of kings!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Lord, we lift up Your name, With hearts full of praise;
Be exalted, oh Lord my God! Hosanna in the highest!

SERMON

Upsetting News

Pastor Larson
Text: Mark 1:1-8

PRAYER

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People **And also with you.**

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you

THE OFFERING

BLESS THE LORD (10,000 REASONS)

Myrin

SINGERS: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.
The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

ALL: ***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.***

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

CHORUS: ***Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before,
O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.***

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore! **CHORUS 2X**

Worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name,
Worship Your holy name, Worship Your holy name.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor *Let us pray,*

People **Heavenly Father, receive these gifts, symbols of the time, abilities, and resources we place at Your disposal in thanks for Your eternal grace, mercy, and peace. Receive them for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reception of New Members

Julia Brent, Isaac, Ann and Hunter Ranisate; Dale & Rosemarie Calendar; Eugen & Angel Ihly; Will Kopriva; Elle Lambert; Dale & Meg Lewis; Joel & Eydie Pankow, Ethan; Della Sanchez; Laurel Shurtleff

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. Come, for the Supper is ready! When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

HOLY COMMUNION

OUR LORD'S BODY AND BLOOD

"THIS IS MY BODY ...
THIS IS MY BLOOD."

MATTHEW 26:26, 28



PREFACE

Pastor The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Pastor Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.
**People It is right to give Him thanks
and praise.**

THE WORDS OF CONSECRATION

Pastor In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL!

(verses 1-3)

LSB 357

HOLY SPIRIT

Torwalt

There's nothing worth more that will ever come close
No thing can compare; You're our living hope.
Your Presence.

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves,
where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone,
In Your Presence, Lord.

**CHORUS: Holy Spirit, you are welcome here;
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere;
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for,
To be overcome by your Presence, Lord.**

Your Presence, Lord, Your Presence.
Oh God how we love Your Presence, Lord.

Let us become more aware of Your Presence;
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness, **CHORUS**

OCEANS

Crocker/Houston

You call me out upon the waters, The great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery, In oceans deep, my faith will stand.

**CHORUS: And I will call upon Your name
And keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise,
My soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine.**

Your grace abounds in deepest waters, Your sov'reign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now. **CHORUS**

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger In the presence of my Savior.

I will call upon Your name,
Keep my eyes above the waves.
My soul will rest in Your embrace.
I am Yours and You are mine.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
 in his grace.
People **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you
 peace.
People **Amen.**

THIS IS AMAZING GRACE

Wickham

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,
whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,
who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

**CHORUS: This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
 that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.
 You laid down Your life that I would be set free.
 Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.**

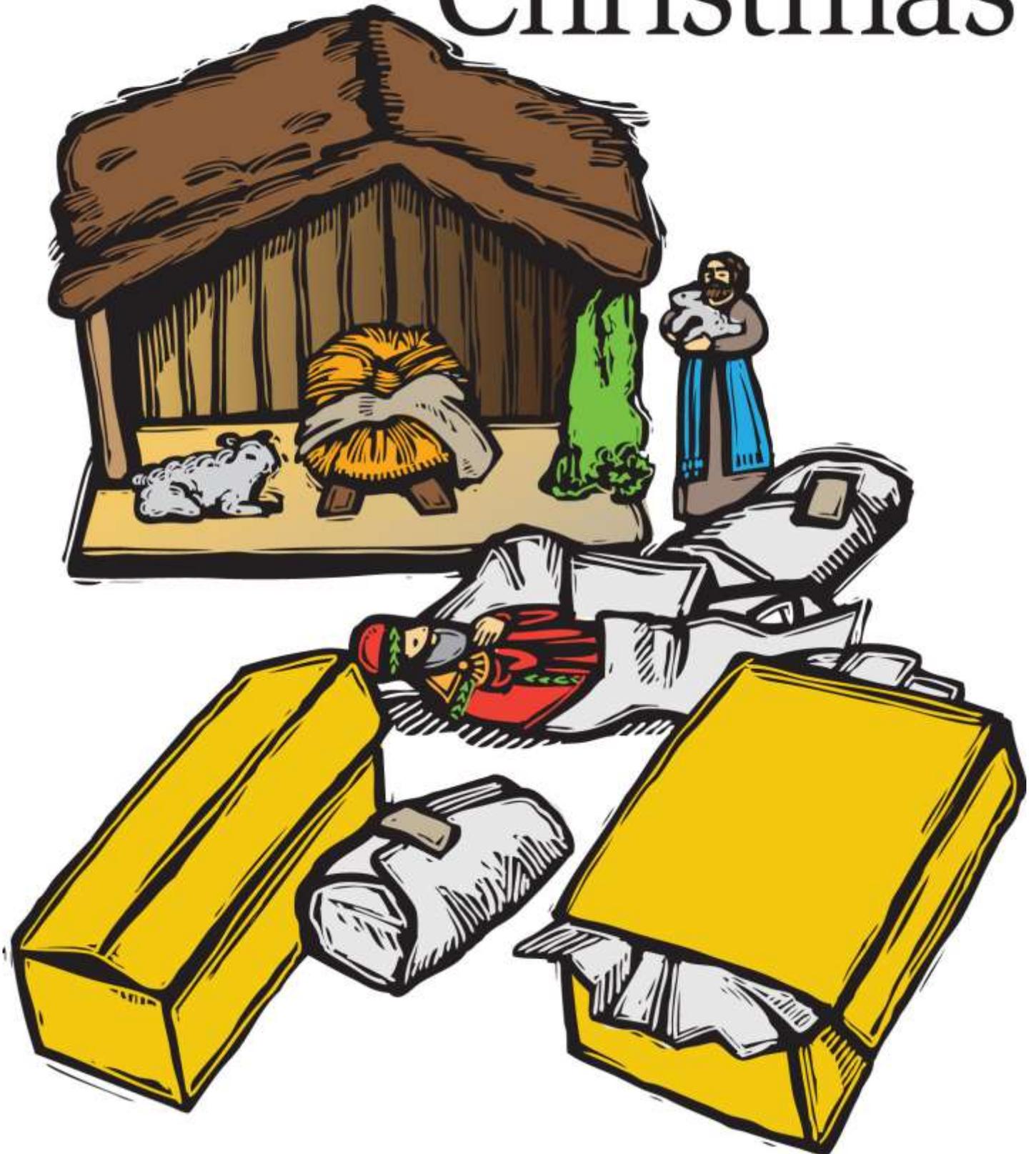
Who brings our chaos back into order,
who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. **CHORUS**

Pastor Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God!**

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

Preparing for Christmas



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder

ELDER 8:00
10:30

Norm Finfrock,
Michael Lawrenz

LECTOR 8:00
10:30

Benjamin Dallet
Jeanette Nelson

ACOLYTE 8:00
10:30

Esther Langness
Ethan Pankow

USHERS 8:00
10:30

Larry Nisbet, Members of the
Congregation

Jason Dierking, Members of the
Congregation

SERVER 10:30
ALTAR GUILD

Collin Brinkman
Phyllis McConnell, Gloria Mielke,
Charmaine Rohde

FLOWERS

Terry Utecht, in loving memory of his
dad, Harold, 10 years since he passed

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**THE PEOPLE
WHO WALKED
IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A
GREAT LIGHT.**

ISAIAH 9:2