

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

December 2, 2018

10:30 am



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The King Shall Come to Bring Us Hope

AS WE GATHER

While the secular calendar won't switch to 2019 for another month, the Church Year begins anew today. Advent is a season of waiting and preparation. One Advent tradition is to mark the four Sundays in Advent with four words that encompass what Jesus brings as He comes into the world to be our Immanuel—God with us. These four words are hope, peace, joy, and love. Today we focus on hope. There is a lot of suffering in the world, but hope exists in Christ's incarnation, death, resurrection, and return.

GATHERING SONG**HERE I AM TO WORSHIP**

Hughes

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

**CHORUS: Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.**

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor. **CHORUS**

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross. **CHORUS**

✕ PREPARATION ✕**PASTORAL GREETING****OPENING SONG****OH COME, OH COME, EMMANUEL
Verses 1-4**

LSB 357



INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: God came to Adam and Eve after they had sinned.

People: **He clothed them, hiding their shame.**

Pastor: God came to Israel when they were enslaved in Egypt.

People: **He delivered them out of the house of slavery.**

Pastor: Christ was born into our world.

People: **He cast out demons, healed our diseases, and preached good news to the poor.**

Pastor: Christ came into Jerusalem on a donkey.

People: **And He died and rose again for us and for our salvation.**

Pastor: Christ promised He will come again.

People: **We wait for His return and the resurrection of the dead.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

People: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 19:38*

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We remember His arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We long for His glorious return. As we wait, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: **we confess that our faith has been lacking. We have not abounded in love for one another or for You. Our hearts are filled with blame and shame, with corruption and conceit. Forgive us, strengthen our faith, and purify our hearts.**

Pastor: Jesus not only comes as an infant at Christmas and in glory at His return, but He also comes to you in words of forgiveness and life. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☐ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

✂ WORD ✂

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

(A righteous Branch will spring up for David.)

"'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.' "

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

("May the Lord make you increase and abound in love.")

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation, please rise for the Gospel.

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

(The Son of Man will come in a cloud with power and great glory.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

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

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

"I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jenna Lawrenz

SONG OF THE DAY

PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

LSB 343

SERMON

"Who Is King?"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Psalm 24

NICENE CREED

Text can be found in the back cover of your Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We share the Lord's peace with one another, saying, "Peace be with you."



OFFERING THE LION AND THE LAMB Brown/Johnson/Mooring

He's coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break, as broken hearts declare His praise
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

**CHORUS: Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before You
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Oh every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb**

So open up the gates, make way before the King of kings
Our God who calls the saved is here to set the captives free
Who can stop the Lord Almighty? **CHORUS**

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 been instructed and 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. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*) *Text is in the back cover of your Hymnal.*

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

JESUS PAID IT ALL

Grape/Nifong

And I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all

**CHORUS: 'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow**

Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone **CHORUS**

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat **CHORUS**

AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

Tomlin

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found, Was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

CHORUS My chains are gone. I've been set free,
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures. **CHORUS X2**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below, Will be forever mine, Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

O COME TO THE ALTAR

Chris Brown

Are you hurting and broken within Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

**CHORUS: O come to the altar The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with The precious blood of Jesus Christ**

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling **CHORUS X2**

Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen **CHORUS X2**

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

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. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD! Tomlin—Reeves—Cash

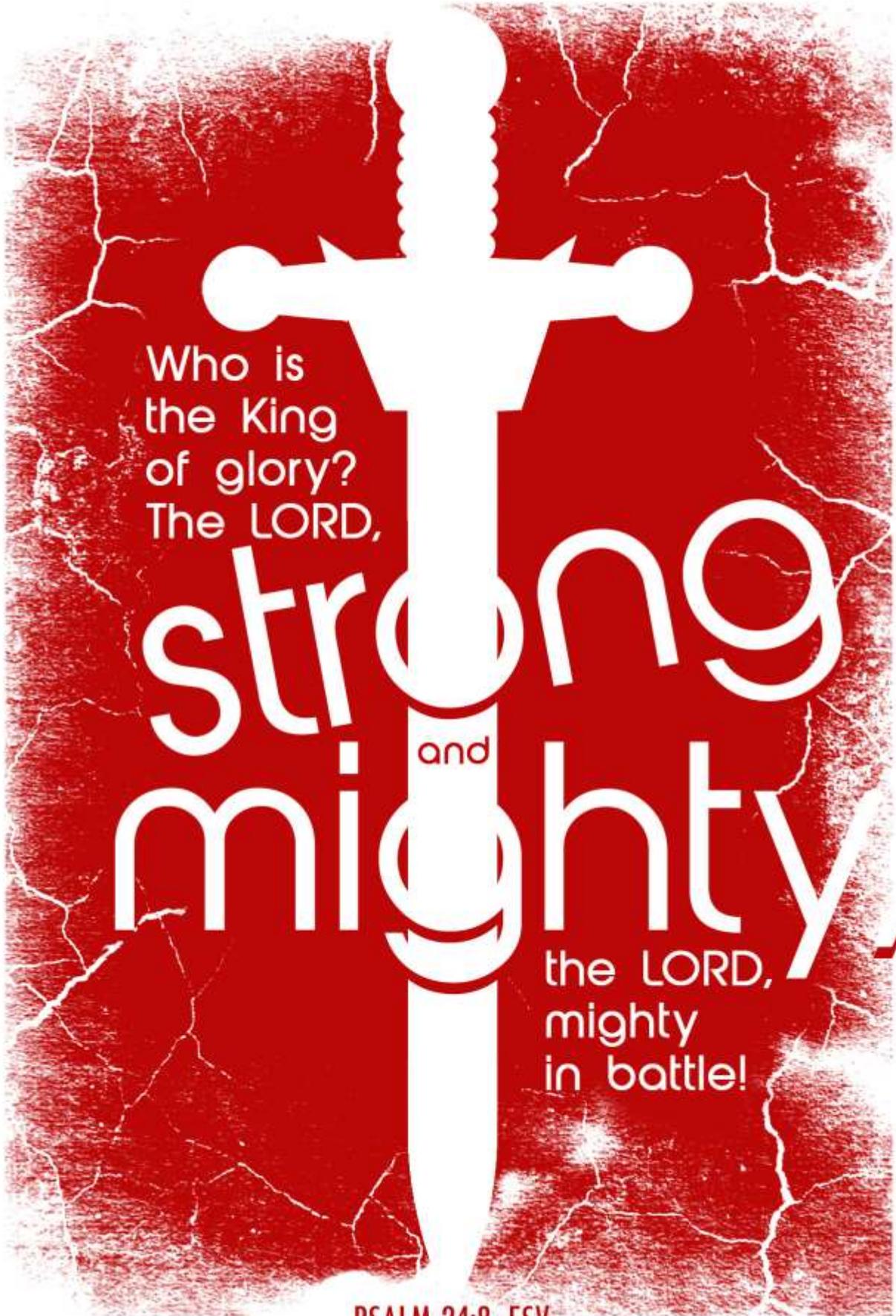
The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

**CHORUS: How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. **CHORUS**

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS





Who is
the King
of glory?
The LORD,

strong
and
mighty,
the LORD,
mighty
in battle!

PSALM 24:8, ESV

Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty -
he is the King of glory.

Psalm 24:10



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
YOUTH BAND

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Diana Gaide
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Brian Johnson, Christa Kirschner, Will Kopriva, Bob Shiflet

ELDER 8:00
10:30
LECTOR 8:00
10:30
ACOLYTE 8:00
10:30
USHERS 8:00

Arvin Michel
Roger Gaide
Anita Baresel
Margo Pasha
Ian Avedissian
Holly Schmitt
Larry Nisbet, Members of the Congregation
Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER 10:30
ALTAR GUILD

Les Young
Gloria Mielke, Dawn Munson, Charmaine Rohde, Barb Williams
Scott Niederbrach, in loving memory of his parents

FLOWERS

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