

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*December 2, 2018*

**8:00 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.

## ✂ PREPARATION ✂

### PRELUDE

“Wake, Awake for Night is Flying”

Paul Manz

### PASTORAL GREETING

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**    *Congregation, please stand.*

### HYMN

“Wake, Awake for Night is Flying”

LSB 516

### 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.**

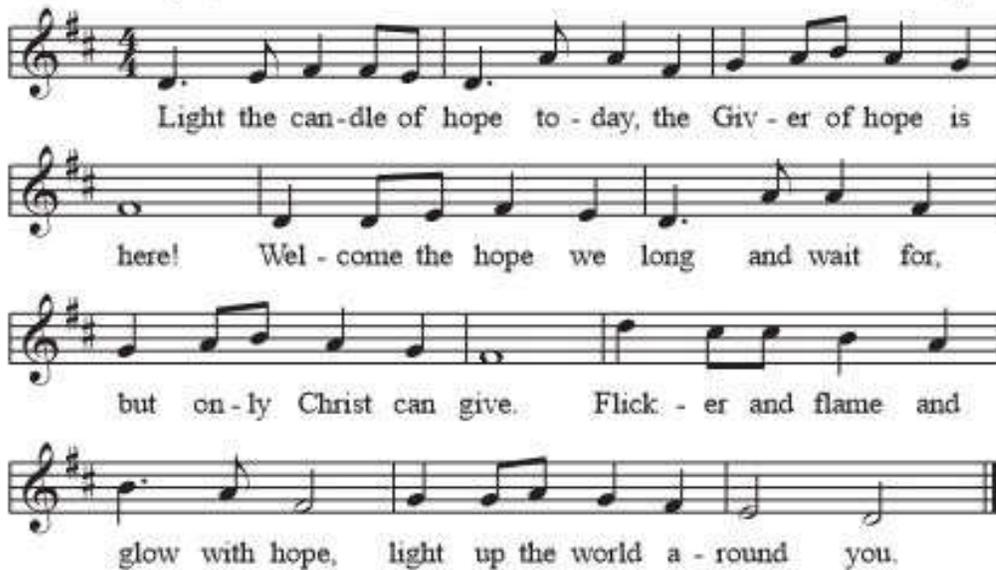


## HYMN

# Light the Candle

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

David von Kampen



Light the can-dle of hope to - day, the Giv - er of hope is  
here! Wel - come the hope we long and wait for,  
but on - ly Christ can give. Flick - er and flame and  
glow with hope, light up the world a - round you.

## 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 ✘

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **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 Alleluia Verse and the Gospel.*

**VERSE** *Psalm 24:7*

**ALL:** **Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.**

## **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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

*LSB 338*

**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** *Luke 19:38*

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, come to those who do not know You, those who have

rejected You, and those who are straying from You. Unite them to Your glorious throne and dwell in their hearts. “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to those who are lonely and in need of Your presence. Come to the homeless, the unemployed, the underemployed, the homebound, the mentally ill, those who are in transition, and anyone else who experiences the pain of loneliness. Remind them of Your incarnation and lead them to Your Church, where we bear one another’s burdens. “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to those who are oppressed and at the mercy of others. Rescue those who are suffering, abused, neglected, and hated. Comfort them with Your tender presence and love. “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to those who are sick, injured, mourning, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Strengthen them with Your healing hand and with Your unwavering presence. “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

Pastor: . . . *other intercessions may be added here.* “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again so that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

**People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”**

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

**People: Amen.**

## 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

“Nations, Hear the Prophet’s Word”

Jeffrey Honoré

Ann Westra, flute; Brian Wilson, synthesized clarinet

## 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.**

## PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

# Holy, Holy, Holy King

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*Geystliche gesangk Buchleyrn,*

Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

Andrew R. Jones

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly King, Come and vis - it  
us, and bring Hope through - out the heav'ns and earth,  
As we raise Ho - san - na's mirth.

## 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  $\times$  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  $\times$  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.*

## AGNUS DEI

# O Lamb of God, You Take Away

VENI EMMANUEL

French, 15th cent.

Andrew R. Jones

O Lamb of God, You take a - way Each sin that leads our  
hearts a - stray. Have mer - cy on us, great High Priest,  
And lead us to Your end - less feast. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el, Your hope is here, O Is - ra - el.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

arr. Diana Gaide  
Diana Gaide, pianist

“Once He Came in Blessing”

LSB 333

“Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349

## 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.**

## HYMN

“Savior of the Nations, Come”  
**Verses 1-3, 7-8**

LSB 332

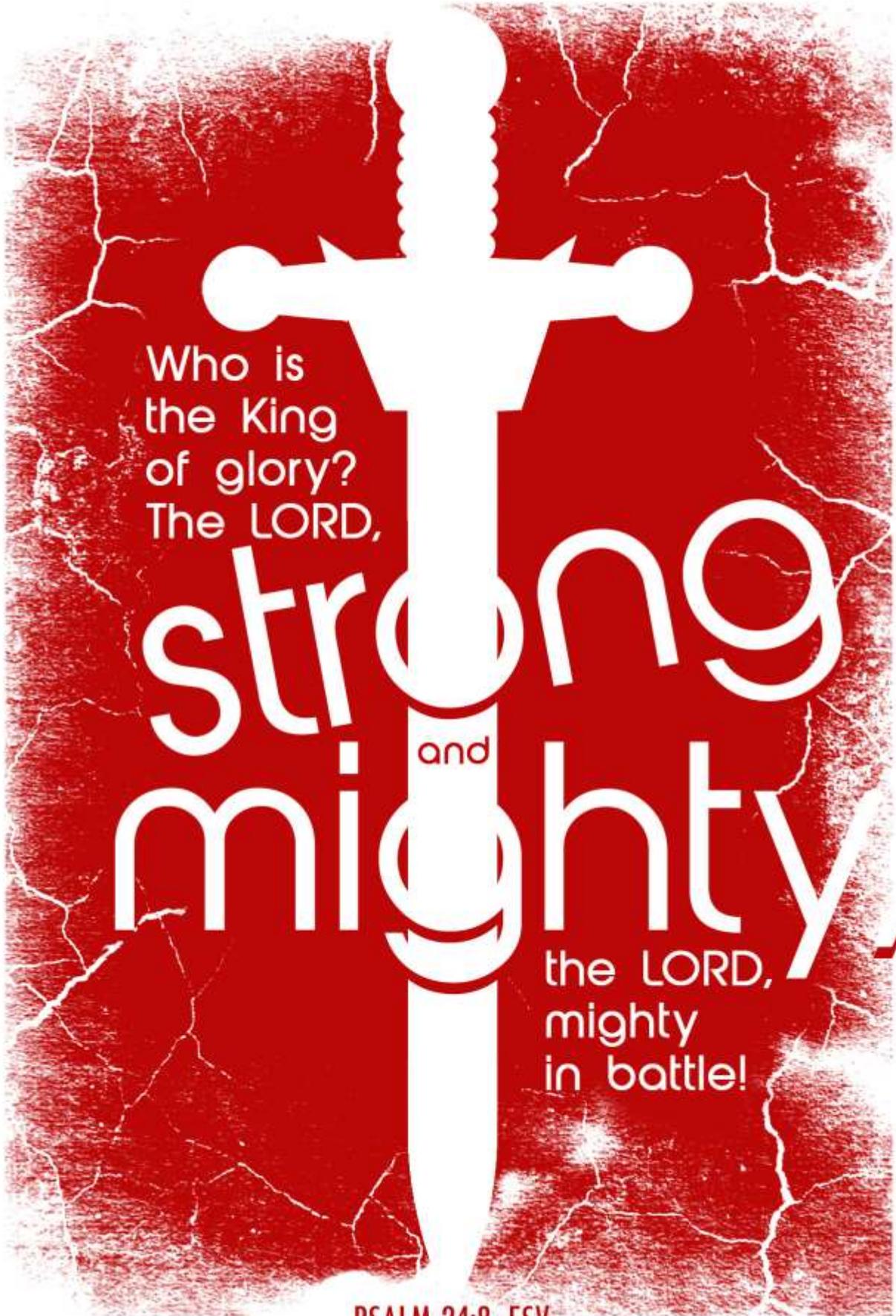
## CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

## POSTLUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Paul Manz





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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