

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

December 9, 2018

10:30 am



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The King Shall Come to Bring Us Peace

AS WE GATHER

Preparation is probably on your mind. Christmas is only weeks away. There are presents to buy, visits to plan, decorations to put up, lights to see, food to cook, and so much more! As we prepare for Jesus to come, we reflect on John the Baptist's words to people who asked what they should do to prepare for the Messiah's coming. John says we are to "make His paths straight" by sharing food and clothing, by not taking advantage of people, and by being content with what the Lord has given us. In the midst of your busy preparations, consider these words.

GATHERING 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.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG

ANCIENT OF DAYS

Gary Sadler | Jamie Harvill

Blessing and honor glory and power Be unto the Ancient of Days
From ev'ry nation all of creation Bow before the Ancient of Days

**CHORUS: Ev'ry tongue in heaven and earth Shall declare Your glory
Ev'ry knee shall bow at Your throne In worship
You will be exalted O God And Your kingdom shall not pass away
O Ancient of Days**

Blessing and honor glory and power Be unto the Ancient of Days
From ev'ry nation all of creation Bow before the Ancient of Days **CHORUS**

Your kingdom shall reign Over all the earth Sing unto the Ancient of Days
For none can compare To Your matchless worth Sing unto the Ancient of Days
(Repeat)

CHORUS

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Based on Luke 3:4–6*

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

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

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: **Make His paths straight.**

Pastor: Every valley shall be filled,

People: **and every mountain and hill made low.**

Pastor: The crooked shall become straight,

People: **and the rough places shall become level ways.**

Pastor: All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

People: **We wait for Christ's return and the resurrection of all flesh.**

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.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

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

Peace



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 3:6; Psalm 66:1–2*

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. As we wait for His coming, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence,

how crooked our world has become, and how unjust are our relationships. We come before the Lord in humility.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have strayed from Your path. We have been selfish and cruel. We have treated our neighbors with injustice and prejudice. We have oppressed the weak in order to gain power. We long to return to You, but how are we to return?

Pastor: As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he said, "All flesh shall see the salvation of God." God sent Jesus to bring salvation to the world through His death and resurrection. This salvation is complete, and Christ comes to you once again with forgiveness, life, and salvation. 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. "Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!"

✠ WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-7b

(God's messenger prepares the way for the day of the Lord.)

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

"So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and

He is like
a refiner's



MALACHI 3:2, NRSV

the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

"I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

"But you ask, `How are we to return?'"

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Philippians 1:2-11
(We are all partakers of grace.)

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

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Gospel.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-20
(John the Baptist prepares the way.)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene-- during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of

repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.' "



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? 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. 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."

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

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."

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 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." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathy Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LSB 344

APOSTLES’ 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 SONG YOU ARE HOLY

MEN You are holy.
MEN You are mighty.
MEN You are worthy.
MEN Worthy of praise.
MEN I will follow.
MEN I will listen.
MEN I will love You.
MEN All of my days.

WOMEN You are holy.
WOMEN You are mighty.
WOMEN You are worthy.
WOMEN Worthy of praise.
WOMEN I will follow.
WOMEN I will listen.
WOMEN I will love You.
WOMEN All of my days.

First Time, Men Sing left Column; Women Right, Second time: REVERSE

MEN You are Lord of lords,
(WOMEN) You are King of kings,
You are mighty God,
Lord of ev’rything.
MEN You’re Emmanuel,
(WOMEN) You’re the Great I AM,
You’re the Prince of Peace,
who is the Lamb.
MEN You’re the Living God,
(WOMEN) You’re my saving grace.
You will reign forever;
You are Ancient of Days.
MEN You are Alpha Omega,
(WOMEN) Beginning and End.
You’re my Savior, Messiah,
Redeemer and Friend.
MEN You’re my Prince of Peace
(WOMEN) and I will live my life for You.

WOMEN I will sing to
(MEN) and worship
The King
who is worthy.
WOMEN And I will love
(MEN) and adore Him
and I will
Bow Down before Him
WOMEN And I will sing to
(MEN) And worship
The King
Who is worthy
WOMEN And I will love
(MEN) And adore Him
And I will
Bow down before him
WOMEN You’re my Prince of Peace
(MEN) And I will live my life for You.

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 \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.*
DISTRIBUTION SONGS

JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Hearn

Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Jesus, loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God;
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Jesus, Way of Salvation, King of Kings, Lord of Lords,
The Way, the Truth, and the Life, Mighty Creator, my Savior and Friend.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

Ligertwood/Fielding

You were the Word at the beginning One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ

CHORUS: What a beautiful Name it is, What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is, Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater What could separate us now **CHORUS**

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God you reign Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is, What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is, Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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 LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Miller-Jackson

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS





ADVENT

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
AGAPE PRAISE BAND

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Diana Gaide
Rose Berger, Bri Ford, Lisa O'Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet, Larry Westra

ELDER 8:00
10:30

Arvin Michel
Roger Gaide

LECTOR 8:00
10:30

Mike Reimnitz
Carol Shepherd

ACOLYTE 8:00
10:30

Chrissy Coon
Erik Schwerin

USHERS 8:00
10:30

Larry Nisbet, Ian Avedissian, Ann Ranisate, Members of the Congregation
Jason Dierking, Cody Urbach, Members of the Congregation

SERVER 10:30
ALTAR GUILD

Collin Brinkman
Gloria Mielke, Dawn Munson,
Charmaine Rohde, Barb Williams

FLOWERS

Patti Zeggert in celebration of her daughter, Sarah, on her 30th birthday

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