

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*December 6, 2020*

10:30 a.m. Sunday



## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

God's Gift of Faith

AS WE GATHER

What was it that made not only a couple or a few but, as Mark says, "all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem" come out to be baptized by the Baptist and to confess their sins? Well, what is it that made you get up and come to church today? Notice that today not all do come. Though occasionally during wartime or some great catastrophe more tend to come, the catechism explains, "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him." "But," it continues, "the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel." Some think believing is impossible for them. But believing is not on you; it is a gift from God, overflowing with forgiveness, life, and salvation. God was with John by the Jordan River. God is here with you by His Word and Sacraments.

## Gathering Song

### “Build Your Kingdom Here”

Rend Collective

Come set Your rule, and reign In our hearts again.  
Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope, Like wildfire in our very souls;  
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now. We are Your church; we need Your pow'r in us.  
We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;  
Refuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize.  
To see the captives' hearts released; The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.  
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause.  
We are Your church; we pray, revive this earth.

**CHORUS: Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.  
Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.  
Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back.  
Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!**

Unleash Your kingdom's power, Reaching the near and far.  
No force of hell can stop Your beauty, changing hearts.  
You made us for much more than this; Awake the kingdom seed in us.  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.  
We are Your church; We are the hope on earth. **CHORUS**



✂ PREPARATION ✂

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344

Verses 1-3, 5



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord. Recalling our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sins to God in the full assurance of the gift of forgiveness by the mighty sacrifice of His Son.

People: **O God, from the wilderness of lives disfigured and crushed by the devil, our own sin, and the sins of others, we cry out to You for the forgiveness of our sins, those that trouble us as well as those of which we are not aware. Restore our life and faith by Your own command for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

### Lighting the Advent Candle

**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.

**Hymn**

“We Light the Advent Candle”

LSB 344

### Verses 1-2



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to  
2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for



come. With hope, we trust the prom - ise That  
rest. With peace, we know our Je - sus Has



He will bring us home. Our hope is in our  
come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all



Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fa - vor. We  
know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing. We



wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!  
wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!

✂ WORD ✂

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5**

(Comfort for God's people.)

**Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling:**

**"In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."**

**Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

(The day of the Lord will come.)

**But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.**

**Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

(John the Baptist prepares the way.)

**Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st Chapter.**

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

**The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way -- a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "

And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Children's Message

Jenna Lawrenz

**Song of the Day**      **Even So Come**      Chris Tomlin/Jason Ingram/Jess Cates

All of creation all of the earth  
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner wake up the saint  
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame Jesus is coming soon

**CHORUS 1:**      **Like a bride waiting for her groom**  
                         **We'll be a Church ready for You**  
                         **Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing**  
                         **Even so come Lord Jesus come Even so come Lord Jesus come**

There will be justice all will be new  
Your name forever faithful and true Jesus is coming soon **CHORUS 1**

So we wait we wait for You God we wait You're coming soon  
So we wait we wait for You God we wait You're coming soon

**CHORUS 2:**      **Like a bride waiting for her groom**  
                         **We'll be a Church ready for You**  
                         **Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing**  
                         **Like a bride waiting for her groom**  
                         **We'll be a Church ready for You**  
                         **Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing**  
                         **Even so come Lord Jesus come Even so come Lord Jesus come**

Even so come Lord Jesus come Even so come Lord Jesus come

**Sermon**      "The Great Finale"

Pastor John Larson  
TEXT: II Peter 3:8-14



## Apostles' Creed

**People:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

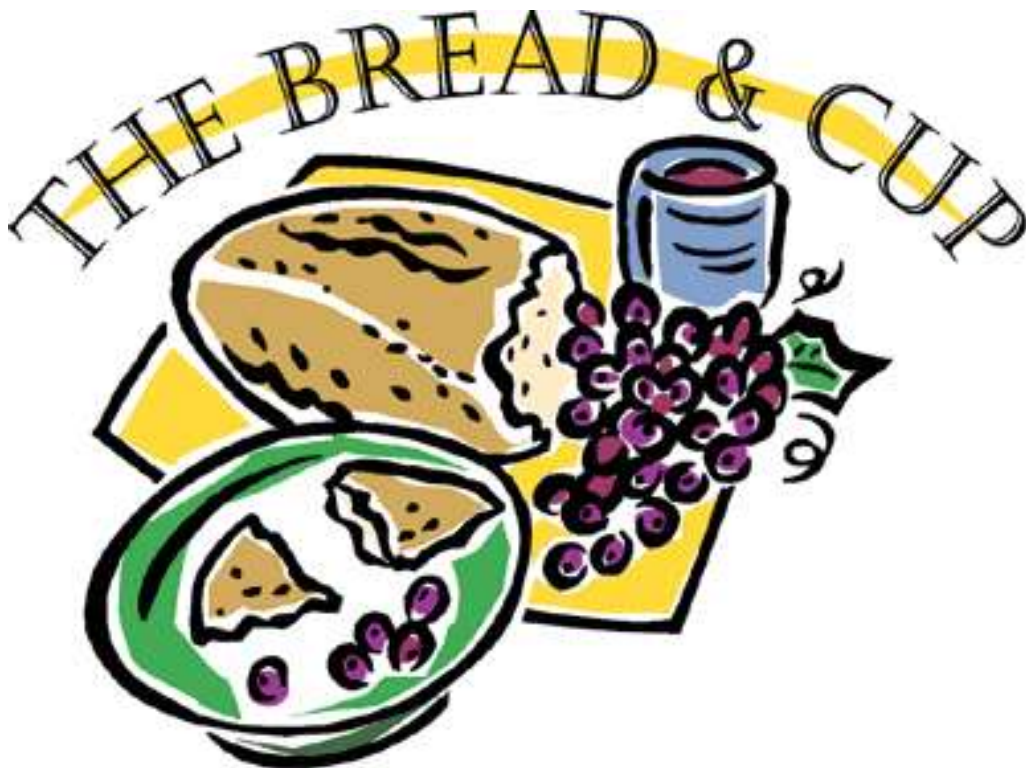
**Pastor:** Lord, in your mercy...

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Offering** Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.

### ☩ 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 (Divine Service, Setting One)

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.**

### Words of Institution

#### Lord's Prayer

**People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

#### Knowing You

Graham Kendrick

All I once held dear built my life upon  
All this world reveres and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now compared to this

**CHORUS: Knowing You Jesus knowing You  
There is no greater thing  
You're my all You're the best  
You're my joy my righteousness  
And I love You Lord**

Now my heart's desire is to know You more  
To be found in You and known as Yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All surpassing gift of righteousness **CHORUS**

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like You in Your death my Lord  
So with You to live and never die **CHORUS**

...love you Lord



## General Communion Blessing

### Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

### Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

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.

### Closing Song Better Is One Day

Redman

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.  
For my soul longs and even faints for You.  
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.  
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

**CHORUS: Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,  
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.  
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,  
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere,  
Than thousands elsewhere.**

One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty,  
to find You in the place Your glory dwells.  
One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty,  
to find You in the place Your glory dwells. **CHORUS**

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the Living God.  
Your Spirit's water to my soul.  
I've tasted, and I've seen. Come once again to me.  
I will draw near to You. I will draw near to You, to You. **CHORUS**

## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

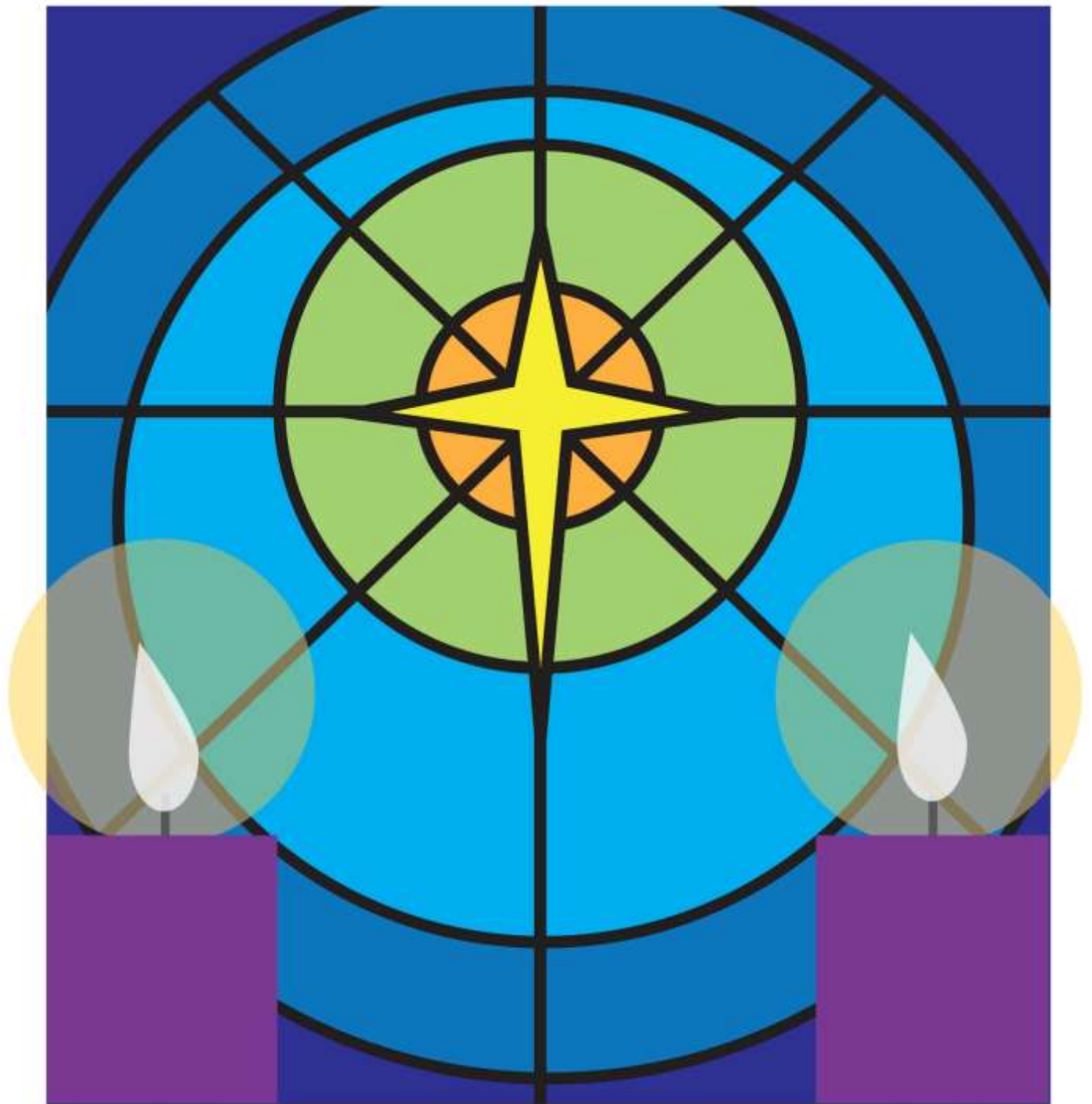
*(and Row by Row Dismissal)*

### Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson  
Michael Zehnder





**SECOND SUNDAY**  
OF  
*Advent*



A wooden advent calendar with numbered doors (1-24) and religious illustrations. The calendar is decorated with black garlands and a star. The text "Be patient... until the coming of the Lord." is overlaid on the image.

Be patient...  
until the  
coming of  
the Lord.

**JAMES 5:7**