

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

November 29, 2020

10:30 a.m. Sunday



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

When God Hides

As We Gather

We begin a new Church Year boldly begging for the advent of our risen Lord Jesus, His final coming to rescue and save us. Our boldness, however, is tempered with the humility of faith that says, “Nevertheless, Thy will be done.” For we know and even expect that His answer to our prayer will be hidden in mystery. It may be the mystery of our continued cry for mercy or the surprise of His final advent as victorious Lord and Judge of all. We know what followed our Lord’s humble entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week of His passion, namely, the mystery and surprise that His victory and the glory of God should be displayed for all the world on a cross. So today we pray with bold humility and confidence, for His coming and deliverance will always have a note of surprise—blessed surprise.



Gathering Song

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!

✧ PREPARATION ✧

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LSB 357

Verses 1-2; 4-5



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

Invocation

Confession and Absolution 1 John 1:8; John 3:16; Matthew 5:16

Pastor: As we begin a new Church Year, let us put behind us everything in the past that would disqualify us from a new life, and remembering our Baptism, we boldly petition our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking for our entry into His presence and His plan and future for us, saying, stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

People: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.

Pastor: What are those threatening perils? I now ask you before God, who searches the heart, do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

People: I do confess.

Pastor: So you should confess as Holy Scripture says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Do you also repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

People: I do repent.

Pastor: So you should repent as did King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others. Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

People: I do believe.

Pastor: So you should believe as Holy Scripture declares, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

People: I do promise.

Pastor: So you should promise for Christ the Lord says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

People: I do believe.

Pastor: As you believe, even so may it be to you. 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.

Pastor: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

People: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. 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.

“We Light the Advent Candle”

Verse 1

1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to
come. With hope, we trust the prom - ise That
He will bring us home. Our hope is in our
Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fa - vor. We
wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!

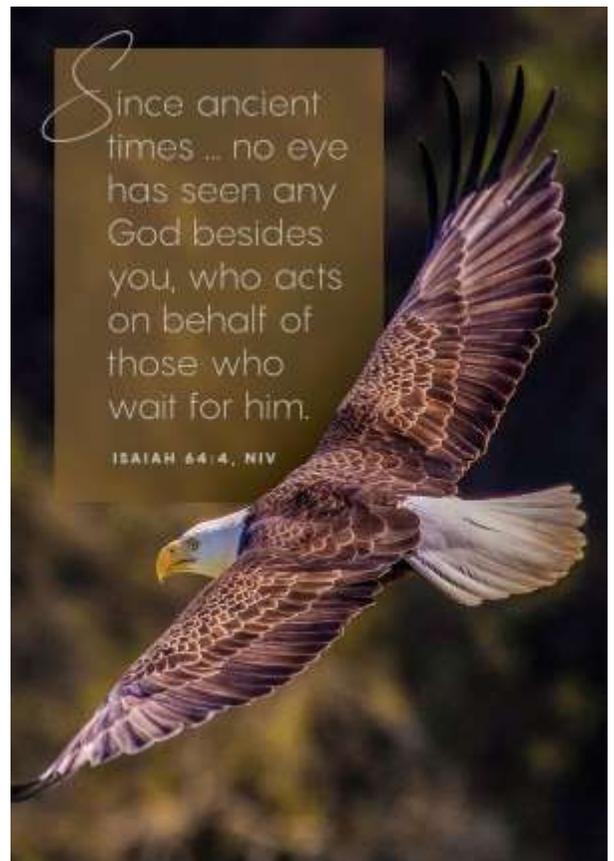
Tune: Public domain
Text: © 2013 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110000713

✂ WORD ✂

Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9

(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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: Mark 11:1-10

(The triumphal entry.)

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

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

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’” They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “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 heaven!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Song of the Day HE REIGNS

Furler—Taylor

It's the song of the redeemed rising from the African plain.
It's the song of the forgiven drowning out the Amazon rain.
The song of Asian believers filled with God's holy fire.
It's ev'ry tribe, ev'ry tongue, ev'ry nation; A love song born of a grateful choir.

CHORUS: It's all God's children singing:

"Glory, glory, hallelujah! He reigns, He reigns!"

It's all God's children singing:

"Glory, glory, hallelujah! He reigns, He reigns!"

Let it rise above the four winds, caught up in the heavenly sound.
Let praises echo from the towers of cathedrals to the faithful gathered underground.
Of all the songs sung from the dawn of creation, some were meant to persist.
Of all the bells rung from a thousand steeples, none rings truer than this: **CHORUS**

And all the powers of darkness
Tremble at what they've just heard,
'cause all the powers of darkness
Can't drown out a single word. **CHORUS**

Sermon "A Lament or A Hymn?"

Pastor John Larson

TEXT: Isaiah 64:1-9

Nicene Creed (Divine Service, Setting One)

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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.**

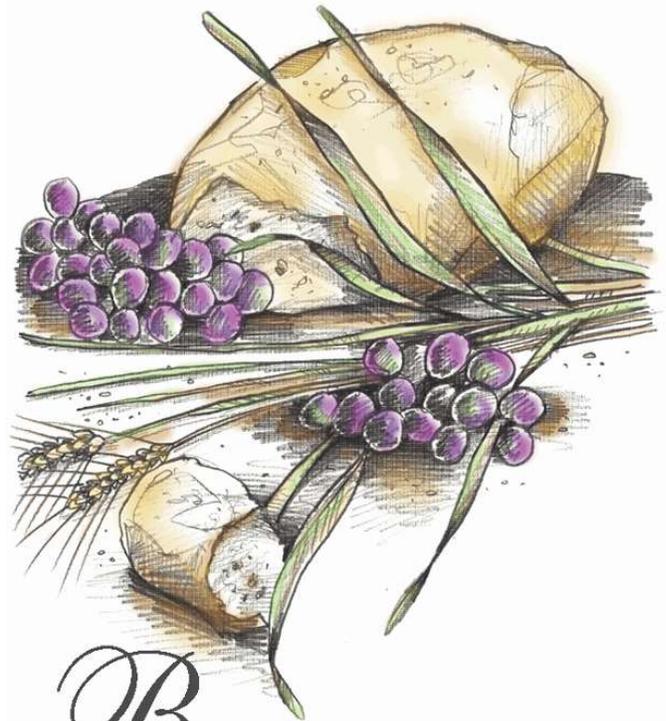
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.**



*Because there is one loaf, we,
who are many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.*

1 Corinthians 10:17

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

Robinson/Thompson/Farren

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

General Communion Blessing

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ



*strengthen you and keep you
in His grace.*

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

ANCIENT OF DAYS

Gary Sadler

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

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(and Row by Row Dismissal)

Serving in Worship

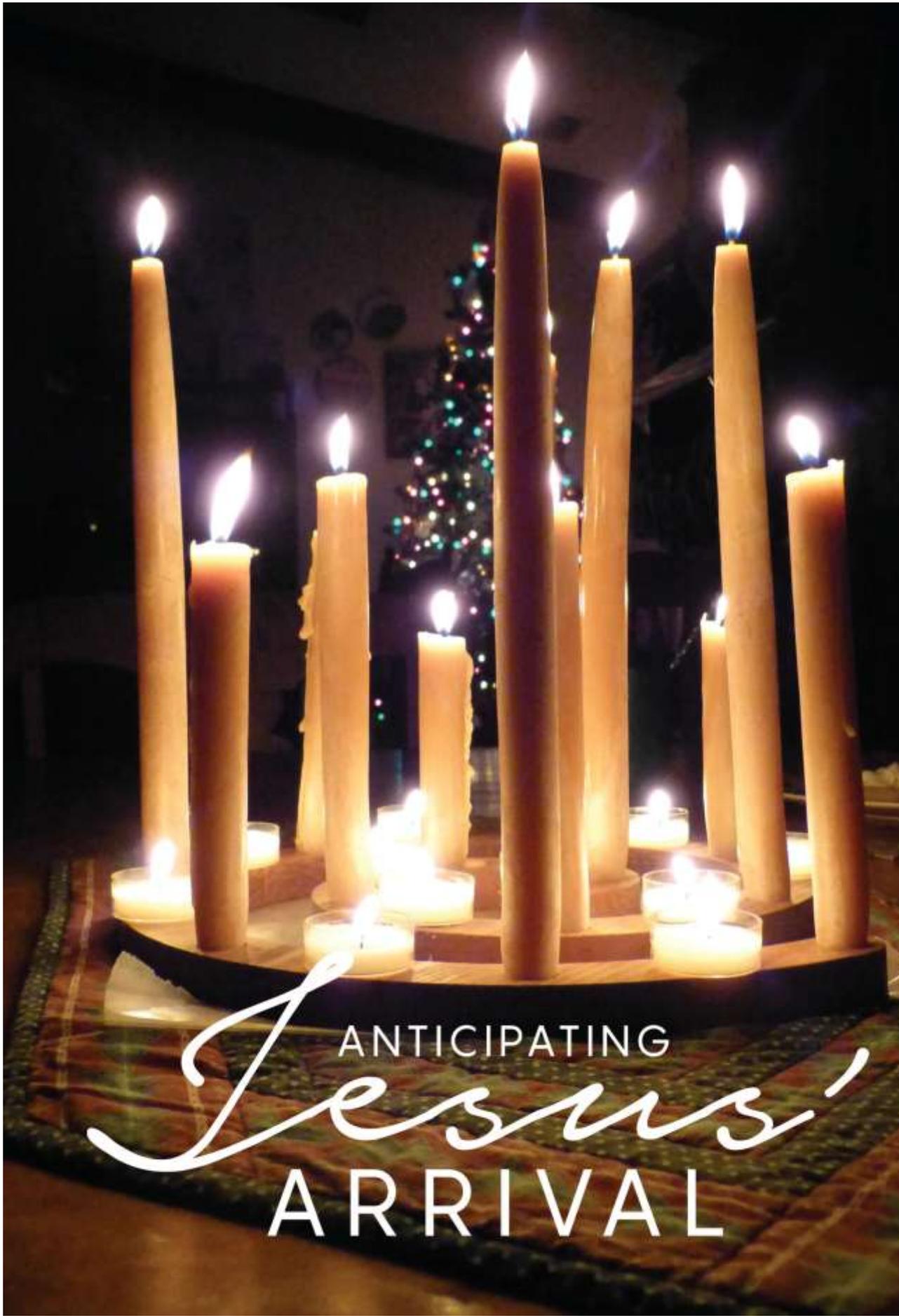
OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder



*B*e patient...
until the
coming of
the Lord.

JAMES 5:7



ANTICIPATING
Jesus'
ARRIVAL