



ADVENT

Prepare—the Lord Will Come Again Unexpectedly

CHRIST **+** ALONE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRIST ALONE LUTHERAN | Fort Worth, TX

December 02, 2018

First Sunday in Advent

SERVICE NOTES: THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the “coming” of the Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time. May God bless your worship.

BEFORE WORSHIP

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet minutes in prayer before the service. Review the lessons, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

INFORMATION

Restrooms are located across the hallway as you exit the gymnasium by the water foundations.

A Mother’s Room is available for your use at any time during the service. It’s located down the hallway to the right as you exit the gymnasium by the water fountains.

Children’s Activity Sheets give activities and lesson pertaining to the Scripture lessons for the day. Pick one up at the information table or speak to an usher.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Paul M. Seager, pastor of Christ Alone

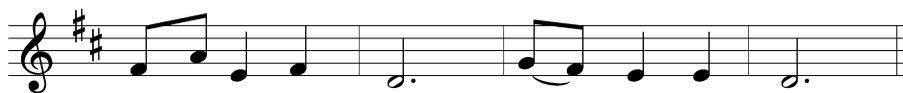
Michele LaRocque, keyboardist

ADVENT GATHERING RITE¹

Refrain



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

L: Refrain

C: Refrain

L: Lord, we await your coming to our world; bring us the gift of salvation.

C: Refrain

L: Lord, you are hope and healing for our world; come, now, and bring us your good news.

C: Refrain

REETING

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

L: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



C: And al - so with you.

¹ Normally, no hymn of praise is sung during Advent and Lent. This practice accentuates the solemn and penitential nature of these seasons. This Advent the Gloria is replaced by the gathering rite for the season.

CONFESSION

L: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and Merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

ABSOLUTION

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

L: Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

L: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.



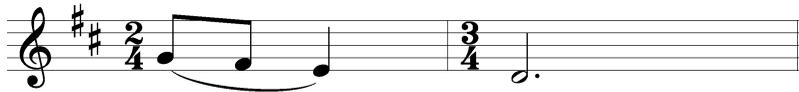
C: Christ, have mer - cy.

L: You will come again in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

L: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.



C: A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

The leader says the Prayer of the Day.

C: Amen.

The Word of God

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established

as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,

and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,

so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,

the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 80

L: Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,

C: you who lead Joseph like a flock.

L: You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

C: shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

L: Awaken your might; come and save us.

C: Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

L: How long, Lord God Almighty,

C: will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears;

C: you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

L: You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,

C: and our enemies mock us.

L: Restore us, God Almighty;

C: make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

HYMN

The Advent of Our King | 1

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree has a long history of religious use. No doubt the Advent Wreath was suggested by the Christmas tree.

It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath.

Eventually the use of the Advent Wreath became wide spread and moved also from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

please stand

³⁶ "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will

be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come | **2**

SERMON

text

theme

THE MAGNIFICAT

Refrain

Pro - claim - the great-ness of God; re - joice_ in God, my
Sav - ior! Re - joice in God_ my Sav - ior!

Cantor: Refrain

All: Refrain

Cantor: For he has favored his lowly one, and all shall call me blessed.
The almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

All: Refrain

Cantor: He favors those who fear his name, in every generation. He has shown the
might and strength of his arm, and scattered the proud of heart.

All: Refrain

Cantor: He has cast the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with all good gifts, and sent the rich away.

All: Refrain

Cantor: He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy.
He promised his mercy to Abraham and his children forevermore.

All: Refrain

Thanksgiving

OFFERING

The members of Christ Alone Lutheran Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

The Sacrament

✓ *Christ Alone Lutheran Church practices close communion. We ask that only members partake of the Sacrament.*

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is good and right so to do.

L: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -
ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line and a circled number 8, indicating a repeat.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



LAMB OF GOD

O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Come forward at the direction of the ushers.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table | **310, vv. 1-8**

LORD'S BLESSING

L: Brother and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**