



²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars...
²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with
power and great glory.”

Luke 21:25,27

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Advent – November 29, 2015

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.

HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of Advent – November 29, 2015

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Our Lord’s contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

PRELUDE: *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* – J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF ADVENT**

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.



Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let light ban-ish the dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press

TIF IN VELDELE
10 7 9 6

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence for reflection.

To you, O God,
we lift up our souls.
You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways;
teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism:
your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus;
you belong to Christ;
you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads!
The reign of God is near.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG #259: *Fling Wide the Door

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

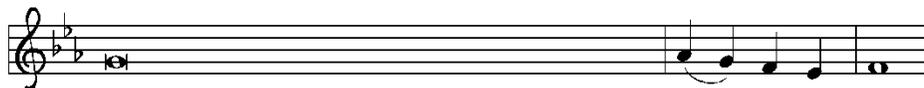
***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
 and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
 A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

By your merciful protection

alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins,

and redeem us for your life of justice,

for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

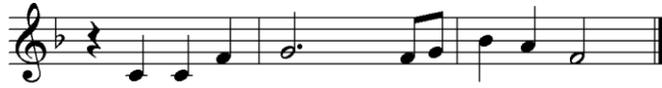
¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25

The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it.



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

¹To | you, O LORD,
I | lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies | triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and | teach me your paths.** R

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted | all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are | from everlasting.** R

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your | goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach | sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the | lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant | and your testimonies.** R

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Verse (cantor): Stand up and raise your heads –your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:28)

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36**

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY #436: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying**

***REMEMBERING THE SAINTS**

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember this day those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors, especially Jane Habe, Diana Haimerl, James George, Rev. William Ervin, Lorraine Ernst, Edward Bielo, Martha & Julius Bielo, Martha & Frank Raupp.

As we remember these your children,
strengthen us to follow Christ through this world
until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life,
where suffering and death will be no more.

**Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

Come to the church, saving God. Grant to your people your redemption. Stand with all Christians who are persecuted for the faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come to the earth, creating God. Protect the lands from environmental disasters. Nurture the animals and plants that you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come to the nations of the world, sovereign God. Inspire all leaders to work for justice. Bring peace to Jerusalem. We pray for peace in our world. Come to the earth, creating God. Protect the lands from environmental disasters. Nurture the animals and plants that you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come to all in need, mighty God. Protect those who suffer injustice. Comfort those who live in fear. Heal the sick. Accompany the dying. We pray especially for Bob, Frieda, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and all those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal yourself to this congregation and to our community, gracious God. Deepen our love for one another. In this season, give us compassion for all who suffer, and keep us from selfish excess. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered. Loving God, you bring to yourself all the faithful who have died. Strengthen us in holiness until with all the saints we come to see you face to face. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #715: Christ, Be Our Light

(Please stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of abundance,

we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

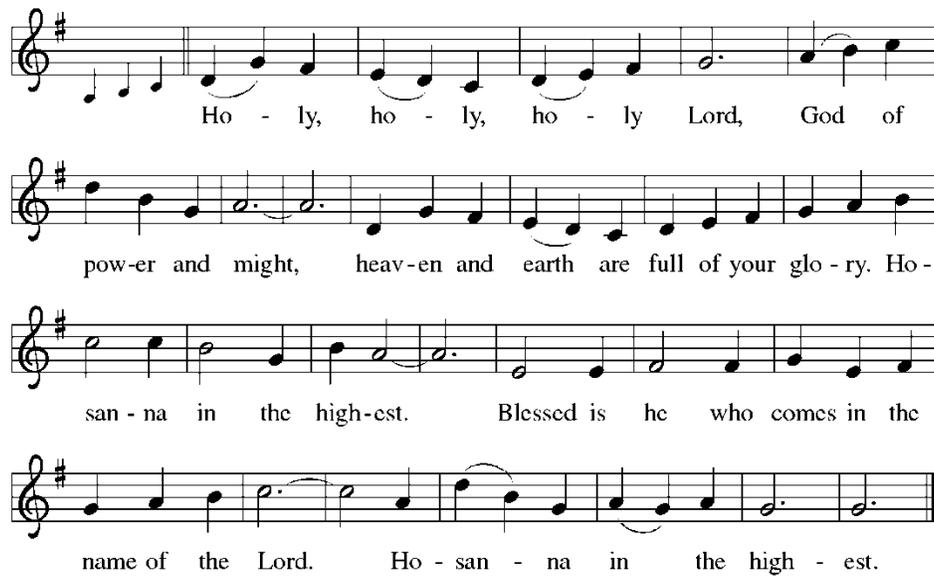
***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.
Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God fills the hungry with good things.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*

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

COMMUNION HYMN #241: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.
Holy One, we give you thanks
that in this bread and cup
we have feasted again on your endless love.
Let that love overflow more and more in our lives,
that we may be messengers to prepare your way,
harvesters of justice and righteousness,
and bearers of your eternal Word,
our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility,
sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await,
make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer,
at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son +, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG #260: *The King Shall Come

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* – David Johnson

The flowers this week are given by Amy & Larry Werner to the glory of God in honor of Emma & Ava.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister:	Kelly Greb
Communion Assistant:	
Acolyte:	
Usher:	Matt Claus
Attendance Last Week:	74
Weekly Budgeted Need:	\$ 2,755.44
YTD Budgeted Expenses:	\$126,750.35
YTD Actual Expense:	\$125,190.67

10:30 am

Assisting Minister:	Martha Ward
Communion Assistant:	Victoria Lydon
Acolyte:	
Usher:	Jim Hager
Attendance Last Year:	55
Last Week's Giving:	\$ 3,288.00
YTD Receipts:	\$123,265.80

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