



Second Sunday of Advent

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR, HE HUMBLER HIS PEOPLE

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

December 5, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

- **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women's bathroom.

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high when the Lord comes near.

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR, HE HUMBLER HIS PEOPLE

People tend to feel a lot of pressure this time of year. We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to meet the Lord: only repentance. You see, Jesus is not someone we need to impress with our good works. Indeed, repentance is the opposite of work. Repentance is the humble admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by him.

New Service Setting – Service One

The high and holy worship of God is faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith is created and sustained by God's service to us (the German, "Gottesdienst," "God/Divine Service). In



the Divine Service, the Lord comes to us in His Word and Sacrament to bless and enliven us with His gifts. The Service is not something we do for God, but His service to us received in faith.

HYMN

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying | **CW 308**

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen**

CONFESSION

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH



M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: **We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

M: We hear his call to repent.

C: **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Two advent candles are lit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world..

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-7

Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord humbles his people, purifying our hearts so that we might stand on the Last Day.

3 “See, I am going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way before me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to his temple, the Messenger of the covenant you delight in—see, he is coming,” says the LORD of Armies. ²But who can endure the day of his coming? And who will be able to stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire and like launderer’s bleach.[Ⓜ] ³He will be like a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver. Then they will

present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ And the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will please the LORD as in days of old and years gone by.

⁵ “I will come to you in judgment, and I will be ready to witness against sorcerers and adulterers; against those who swear falsely; against those who oppress the hired worker, the widow, and the fatherless; and against those who deny justice to the resident alien. They do not fear me,” says the LORD of Armies. ⁶ “Because I, the LORD, have not changed, you descendants of Jacob have not been destroyed.^[a]

⁷ “Since the days of your ancestors, you have turned from my statutes; you have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of Armies.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 66

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

Producing love and humility within us is God's work. He began his good work at our baptism and will carry that work to completion.

³ I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you,^[a] ⁴ always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you^[a] will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ Indeed, it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart,^[a] and you are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how deeply I miss all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4,6

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In grace, God sent his messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare people to meet the Lord.

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch^[a] of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high

priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, God’s word came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the vicinity of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

**A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight!
⁵ Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be made low;
the crooked will become straight,
the rough ways smooth,
⁶ and everyone will see the salvation of God.**

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

be seated

**HYMN OF THE DAY
SERMON**

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry | CW 316
Philippians 1:3-11

Having heard the Word of God, we confess our faith in His name. The creed is our saying back to God what He has first said to us. In the Creed we acclaim the truth of the triune God and His work of salvation accomplished for us in His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

*2 Cor. 6:18
Is. 51:13*

**I believe 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.**

*1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18
Lk. 1:35
Lk. 1:34; 2:7
Lk. 23:16
Mt. 27:32-61; Mk 15:21-47
Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42*

**He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand**

*1 Pet. 3:19
1 Cor. 15:4b
Ac. 2:33-34*

*Upon hearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith that **all Christians profess.** The creeds signify our allegiance to the Christian faith and unite us with over 2,000 years of Christian history. By repeating the creeds weekly, we equip ourselves for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of our*

of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

Heb. 1:13

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

Mt. 3:16-17

Eph. 5:23

Eph. 4:3-6

Rom. 4:6-8

1 Cor. 15:13-19

1 Th. 4:17

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.

be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

C: Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

M: Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacrament faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

M: Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

M: Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and just our laws.

C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

M: Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

M: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [especially...]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

C: Grant the love, and take them into your tender care.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [especially...]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

C: Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

M: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

In response to God's love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.

The Service of the Sacrament

This greeting marks a new service, so to speak. These ancient introductory words & phrases help to highlight, celebrate and bring attention to the Sacrament.



M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord *who promised that wherever two or three gather together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.*

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy – Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of our Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in the very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

**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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22

M: 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.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD – *Agnus Dei*

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 295 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: “*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*” (1 Corinthians 11:28)

*Christ Lutheran Church confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Closed Communion**. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord’s Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.*

HYMN

O Bride of Christ, Rejoice | **CW 303**

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: his mercy endures forever.

M: Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

M: We give thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: 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.

CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | **CW 313**



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Pastor Joshua Hanson

WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities
both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

Look what Christ is doing!

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

“Now you are the body of Christ,

and each one of you is a part of it.”
(1 Corinthians 12:27)

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