



HOPE *Hope*

A THRILL OF HOPE
THE WEARY WORLD
REJOICES...

Faith Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Our Mission: *Faith Grows*

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First Sunday in Advent

December 2 & 3, 2023

5:00 p.m., 8:00, & 11:00 a.m.

Divine Service, Setting Three, Page 184

AS WE GATHER

Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power and glory on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until His ultimate revealing on that Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting His promise to make us guiltless in His sight. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20)

· PRELUDE

"Improvisations on a Hymn"

· ANNOUNCEMENTS

| CHIMING OF THE TRINITY (The congregation stands at the ringing of the bell.)



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
 5 Be - fore the dawn - ing day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 △ 6 All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
 The sin - ful self be put a - way, The new self now put on.
 With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

| INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

| THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ☆ HOPE

One Advent tradition is to mark the four Sundays in Advent with four words that encompass what Jesus brings as He comes into the world to be our Immanuel.

These four words are hope, peace, joy, and love. Today we focus on hope.

Dear Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine. Amen.



1. Can - dle glow - ing my heart know - ing, I should fol - low him;



Je - sus lead - ing, guid - ing, plead - ing, "Let no light be dim."

| CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

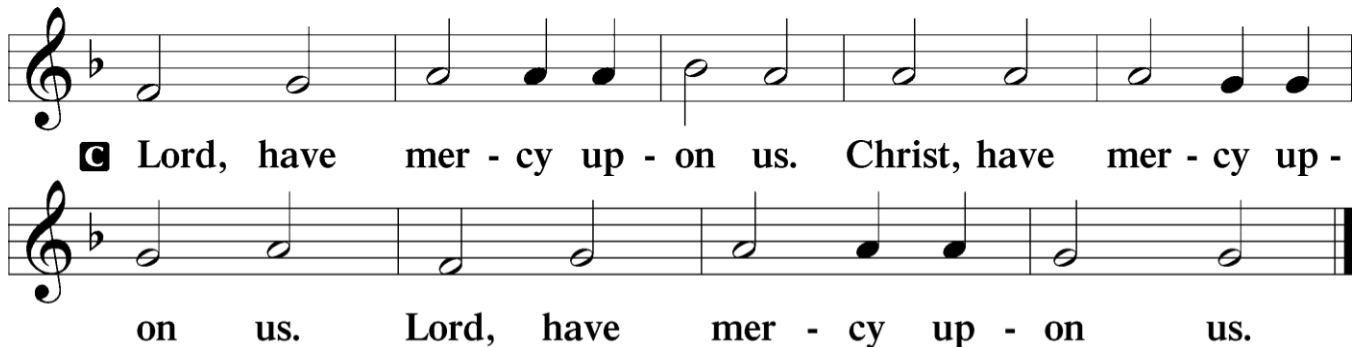
Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The Service of the Word

| KYRIE

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Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

| SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us as we wait for Your revealing. Protect us by Your hand that we may be rescued from the guilt of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make Your name known to Your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at Your presence! When You did awesome things that we did not look for, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides You, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember You in Your ways. Behold, You were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon Your name, who rouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge – even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you – so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

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Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM (11:00)

Shay Maria Craig

daughter of Steven & Ashley Craig.

Sponsors: Garrett Arsenault and Ally Arsenault



HOLY GOSPEL

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



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Mark 11:1-10

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “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!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*” Page 336, vs. 1, 2, 4



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

SERMON

“Advent Expectations”
 Pastor Brandford Hildebrandt
 Text: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

| NICENE CREED

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.

| OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

*We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

Prayer Requests: Please print prayer requests on the blue “Prayer” card and hand it to an usher during this time.

| OFFERTORY ANTHEMS “Come, Child of Light” arr. by Lloyd Larson

| PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

| 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.

The Service of the Sacrament

| PREFACE

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.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

| SANCTUS

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C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

| WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

| AGNUS DEI

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■ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

| DISTRIBUTION

(Please review our statement of faith inserted into the front of the hymnal.)

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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 in favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Page 345, vs. 1, 3, 5



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the
near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -
works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

POSTLUDE

INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The ancient advent hymn, *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* originated in part from the “Great ‘O’ Antiphons,” part of the medieval Roman Catholic Advent liturgy. On each day of the week leading up to Christmas, one responsive verse would be chanted, each including a different Old Testament name for the coming Messiah. When we sing each verse of this hymn, we acknowledge Christ as the fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies. We sing this hymn in an already-but not yet-kingdom of God. Christ's first coming gives us a reason to rejoice again and again, yet we know that all is not well with the world. So along with our rejoicing, we plead using the words of this hymn that Christ would come again to perfectly fulfill the promise that all darkness will be turned to light. The original text created a reverse acrostic: *“ero cras,”* which means, “I shall be with you tomorrow.” That is the promise we hold to as we sing this beautiful hymn.

Theme: The Light of the World

2023 Midweek Advent Worship

5:30 p.m. - Meal at in the Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. - Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Advent Midweek #2 – December 6, 2023

5:30 p.m. – Meal served by the Lambs of Faith Preschool

6:30 p.m. – Service with the Sunday School

God's Light May Look Different than my Expectations

John 1:6-14



Advent Midweek #3 – December 13, 2023

5:30 p.m. – Meal served by the Member Contact Group

6:30 p.m. – Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Cut Ties with the Darkness

1 John 1:6-7



Advent Midweek #4 – December 20, 2023

5:30 p.m. – Meal served by the Women of Faith

6:30 p.m. – Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Jesus Is the Light of the World

John 1:14-18 & John 8:12

