

Gospel Acclamation: “Blessed Is The One” (stand as you are able)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

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Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37

²⁴“But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ ²⁶“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. ²⁸“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it[b] is near, right at the door. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert[c]! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Message: Pastor Eric Hanson

Prek-1st Graders Sing

Sermon: Pastor Eric Hanson

Hymn of the Day & Offering: “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” #244

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHX5> Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.

Verse 1: Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear! The evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising & soon is drawing nigh; Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

Verse 2: The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

Verse 3: The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff’rings bore, shall live and reign forever, when sorrow is no more: Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold, in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Verse 4: Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o’er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth’s redemption that sets your people free!

Offertory Response: “Give Thanks” Ushers may bring offering forward.

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.

Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.

Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

C: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

Baptism of Nolan Tipcke

The Prayers: (call and response)

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God’s day of restoration. *A brief silence.* Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief especially; Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Shawn Frederixon, and Geri Lindholm. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace: P: The peace of Christ be with you always, **C: And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give Him thanks & praise.**

The Words of Institution

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.

Meal and Hymns:

All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.

Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

“We Are Waiting For Jesus”

Vs 1: We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace. Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in your promise. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

Vs 2: We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace. Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

“Christ Be Our Light” #715

Vs 1: Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Vs 2: Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow’r to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

Vs 4: Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Vs 5: Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. [Refrain]

Communion Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

C: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Blessing: *(please stand as you are able)*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: “Soon And Very Soon” #439

Vs 1: Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Vs 2: No more cryin’ there we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

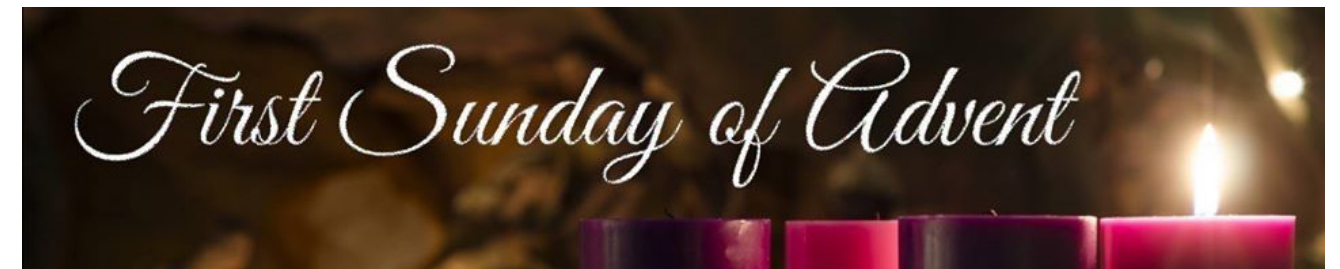
Vs 3: No more dyin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Vs 4: Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Dismissal: **P:** The world waits for Christ. You are the body of Christ. Go be His hands and feet.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude *Pianist, Debbi St. John*



St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson
9:30AM • December 3, 2023

Prelude: *Pianist, Debbi St. John*

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting: *(please stand as you are able)*

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: In Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ. Let us open our hearts to God’s mercy.
Together we confess our sins,

C: Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you, and against our brothers and sisters. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us.

P: Children of God, the advent of Christ brings the promise of grace. Through Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Live reconciled to each other. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs 1, 2 #257

Vs 1: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Vs 2: O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh; in strength & beauty come & stay; teach us your will & guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Advent Reflection: *read by ?? (you may be seated)*

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the coming of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of creation.

Advent Prayer: *read by ??*

*Hope - Dear God, as we begin our advent pilgrimage, grant us the courage to hope.
Hope for your presence, hope for your peace, hope for your promise. Amen.*

Lighting of the Advent Candles & Hymn: “Light one candle to watch for Messiah” vs 1 #240

Vs 1: Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— ⁶God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.