



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

Advent Midweek Worship

December 20, 2023

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331

- 1 The advent of our King**
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son**
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on
To set his servants free.
- 3 O Zion’s daughter, rise**
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light,**
He soon will come again
And his true members all unite
With him in heav’n to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day**
Let sin’s dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.
- 6 All glory to the Son,**
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Advent Versicles

- P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** All those who await his appearance pray:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** The whole creation pleads:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Prayer

- P** Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify you forever.
- C** Amen.

Advent Litany

- P** The prophet Isaiah calls out to YHWH:
- C** **“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;**
- P** We all shrivel up like a leaf,
- C** **and like the wind our sins sweep us away.**
- P** No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you;
- C** **For you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.**
- P** Yet you, YHWH, are our father.
- C** **We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.**
- P** Do not be angry beyond measure, YHWH,
- C** **do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.” (Isa. 64:6-9)**

Confession and Forgiveness

- P** We gather to prepare our hearts for the Lord of Advent: the little Messiah who comes into the world and into our hearts. He tells us to be watchful for his coming, and he himself prepares us. His Spirit abides in us so that our hearts may be cleansed by his power. Trusting

in the mercy of his judgment, we therefore confess our sin to the Lord.

We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.

P Lord, have mercy on us;

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Christ, have mercy on us;

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Lord, have mercy on us;

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Hear the Good News which the angels proclaimed: Jesus, the Messiah, is the son of our loving God. He takes away the sin of the world and our fear. The message of the prophets is fulfilled in his coming. The Good News of Christmas is that God's child has come to live among us to save us from sin and fear.

C **Amen**

First Reading

Isaiah 29:13-24

¹³The Lord says:

“These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me

is based on merely human rules they have been taught.

¹⁴Therefore once more I will astound these people
with wonder upon wonder;

the wisdom of the wise will perish,
the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.”

¹⁵Woe to those who go to great depths
to hide their plans from the LORD,
who do their work in darkness and think,

“Who sees us? Who will know?”

¹⁶You turn things upside down,
as if the potter were thought to be like the clay!

Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it,
“You did not make me”?

Can the pot say to the potter,
“You know nothing”?

¹⁷In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field
and the fertile field seem like a forest?

¹⁸In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll,

and out of gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind will see.

¹⁹ Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD;
the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

²⁰ The ruthless will vanish,
the mockers will disappear,
and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down—

²¹ those who with a word make someone out to be guilty,
who ensnare the defender in court
and with false testimony deprive the innocent of justice.

²² Therefore this is what the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, says to the
descendants of Jacob:

“No longer will Jacob be ashamed;
no longer will their faces grow pale.

²³ When they see among them their children,
the work of my hands,

they will keep my name holy;

they will acknowledge the holiness of the Holy One of Jacob,
and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

²⁴ Those who are wayward in spirit will gain understanding;
those who complain will accept instruction.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Second Reading

I Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but
to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the
philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the
world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did
not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was
preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look
for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews
and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews
and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the
foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God
is stronger than human strength.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Advent Litany

- P** YHWH proclaimed through the prophet Isaiah, “This is what YHWH says - your redeemer who formed you in the womb:
- C** 'I am the LORD, the maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens,
- P** who spreads out the earth by myself,
- C** who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners,
- P** Who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense,
- C** who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers,
- P** who says of Jerusalem:
- C** It shall be inhabited
- P** of the towns of Judah,
- C** They shall be rebuilt,
- P** and of their ruins,
- C** I will restore them.’” (*Isa. 44:24-26*)

Holy Gospel

Mark 7:1-23

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the seventh chapter.
- C** Glory to you, O Lord.

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ² and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵ So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶ He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

⁹ And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ ¹¹ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to

God)—¹² then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. ¹³ Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them. ¹⁶ If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”

¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸ “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? ¹⁹ For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

²⁰ He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. ²¹ For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

LSB 585 (tune 344)

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide.
O let your Word, that saving light,
Shine forth undimmed into the night.**
- 2 In these last days of great distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That we keep pure till life is spent
Your holy Word and Sacrament.**
- 3 To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold
Speak tongues of fire and make us bold
To shine your Word of saving grace
Into each dark and loveless place.**
- 4 May glorious truths that we have heard,
The bright sword of your mighty Word,
Spurn Satan that your Church be strong,
Bold, unified in act and song.**
- 5 Restrain, O Lord, the human pride
That seeks to thrust your truth aside**

**Or with some man-made thoughts or things
Would dim the words your Spirit sings.**

- 6 Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;
Preserve our faith our whole life through—
Your Word alone our heart's defense,
The Church's glorious confidence.**

Homily

Presentation of Offering

P Let us pray. Lord of Advent,

C **Accept the offerings we bring this day, the work of our hands,
the gifts of our labor, our lives to serve you. Gladden our hearts
as we watch for your coming and help us to share that gladness
with all. Amen.**

Advent Litany

P YHWH proclaimed through the prophet Isaiah:

C **“For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep
compassion I will bring you back.**

P In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment,

C **But with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,
says the LORD your redeemer.**

P 'To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of
Noah would never again cover the earth.

C **So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke
you again.**

P Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed,

C **yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant
of peace be removed,'**

P says YHWH who has compassion on you. (*Isa. 54:7-10*)

Litany for Christ's Coming

P As the days of Advent hasten on and we draw nearer to the day of
Christ's coming, let us pray with fervent hearts for the needs of the
world:

C **Come, Lord Jesus, and do not tarry.**

P Lord Christ, in joy and anticipation we await your coming.

C **Come now and illumine the whole universe.**

P All creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children
of God.

C **Come soon, and save those who wait in darkness.**

- P** The suffering and the poor look to you for their hope.
- C** **Come and raise us to glory in your presence.**
- P** The troubled and oppressed have nowhere to turn but to you.
- C** **Come quickly and banish the powers of evil and darkness around us.**
- P** The sick and weary, the dying, and the faint-hearted cry out in their despair.
- C** **Come and bring us eternal wholeness and health.**
- P** Even the martyrs and the blessed dead make their plea, "O Lord, how long?"
- C** **Come now and give us eternal life.**
- P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** All those who await your appearance pray:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** The whole creation pleads:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Hearken to the prayers of your servants, Lord Jesus. By the sign of the manger of Bethlehem, give us hope in the promise of your return. Come quickly, Lord, and bring us to the joys of the resurrection, where we will praise you with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

- 1** Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
 Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
 Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

*ref Hosanna to the Lord,
 For he fulfills God's Word!*

- 2** God's people, see him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*
- 3** Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him!
All nations, now adore him! *Refrain*
- 4** His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Collect For Peace

P Spirit of the Lord God, you bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, you shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and provide a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ our salvation.

C Amen.

Advent Benediction

P May God be with you as you keep watch for the One whose Advent is promised.

C Amen.

P May God embolden your witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way.

C Amen.

P May you be found ready and alert at Christ's return, at peace in body, mind and spirit, and doing his will.

C Amen.

P And may God almighty, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people, proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

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