

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The First Sunday in Advent ☩ November 28, 2020 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music
Sanctuary Choir, Musician Leaders

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)*

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please pick up a pre-filled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit. At home you may prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate for your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." We acknowledge that communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Miriam

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, ☩ who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

☑ Amen.

☐ Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

☑ in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

☐ God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

☑ Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *The King Shall Come*

ELW Hymn 260

**1 The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.**

**2 Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.**

**5 The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.**

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925 Text is in Public Domain.

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE and KYRIE*ELW Page 138*

- | | | | |
|----------|--|----------|--------------------------|
| L | In peace, let us pray to the Lord. | G | Lord, have mercy. |
| L | For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord. | G | Lord, have mercy. |
| L | 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. | G | Lord, have mercy. |
| L | For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. | G | Lord, have mercy. |
| L | Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. | G | Amen. |

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Glory to God in the Highest (The Song of the Angels)**ELW Page 139*

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
- G** **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Stir up our hearts, 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.
- G** **Amen.**

LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*—Plain English Version*

- L** Today's Lesson is from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian Christians, the third chapter.

You make us so happy that we pray to God and thank him for you. We can't thank him enough. ¹⁰We are always praying to God, both in the day time and at night time, and we are strongly asking him to let us visit you again. There are still some things we need to tell you about Jesus so that you can trust him even more.

¹¹Yes, we want God, our father, and Jesus, our leader, to help us come to you. ¹²And we want Jesus to get you to love each other and to love other people, even more than you do now. We want you to love people just as much as we love you. ¹³We want Jesus to make you properly good and clean inside. You see, one day Jesus, our leader, will come back, and all his people will be with him. And then we will all meet God our father, and God will see that we are properly good and clean inside, so he will be happy with us, and he will not have to blame us for doing anything wrong.

Plain English Bible (PEV) © 2021 Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia. Translated for speakers of Australian Indigenous languages.

- L** The word of the Lord.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *He Came Down**ELW Hymn 253*

**He came down that we might have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we might have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

P The Holy Gospel according Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “There will appear signs in the sun, moon and stars; and on earth, nations will be in anxiety and bewilderment at the sound and surge of the sea,²⁶ as people faint with fear at the prospect of what is overtaking the world; for the powers in heaven will be shaken.²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with tremendous power and glory.²⁸ When these things start to happen, stand up and hold your heads high; because you are about to be liberated!”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, Indeed, all the trees.³⁰ As soon as they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves that summer is near.³¹ In the same way, when you see these things taking place, you are to know that the Kingdom of God is near!

³²Yes! I tell you that this people will certainly not pass away before it has all happened.³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

³⁴“But keep watch on yourselves, or your hearts will become dulled by carousing, drunkenness and the worries of everyday living, and that Day will be sprung upon you suddenly like a trap!³⁵ For it will close in on everyone, no matter where they live, throughout the whole world.³⁶ Stay alert, always praying that you will have the strength to escape all the things that will happen and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.”

Complete Jewish Bible (CJB) Copyright © 1998 by David H. Stern. All rights reserved.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Miriam

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Bring Peace to Earth Again*

ELW Hymn 700

1 Where armies scourge the countryside, and people flee in fear,
where sirens scream through flaming nights, and death is ever near:

Refrain: **O God of mercy, hear our prayer: bring peace to earth again!**

2 Where anger festers in the heart, and strikes with cruel hand;
where violence stalks the troubled streets, and terror haunts the land: *Refrain*

3 Where homes are torn by bitter strife, and love dissolves in blame;
where walls you meant for shelt’ring care hide deeds of hurt and shame: *Refrain*

4 O God, whose heart compassionate bears ev’ry human pain,
redeem this violent, wounding world till gentleness shall reign. *Refrain*

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Text © 1996 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.
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OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED

P Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God." please respond, "your mercy is great."

The prayers are ended with these words, "God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus." Please respond, "Amen."

INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

***PROCESSION OF ABUNDANCE:** *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring*

*ELW Hymn 691**

1 **Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table.**
We do not worship as we ought but only as we're able.

3 **Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer before you.**
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as humbly we adore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957 Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress. Augsburg Fortress License SAS 000345

**Please present your Faith-giving Intent Cards at the altar at this time.*



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 our thanks and praise.**

P 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:

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

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

—ELW page 144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SHARING COMMUNION IN THE SANCTUARY OR WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD AT HOME

As the pastors and worshipers commune, please join them and the whole Church in the sanctuary or remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise: "The body of Christ for you" and "The blood of Christ for you."

ANTHEM DURING COMMUNION: *Prepare Ye*

James C. Hagberg, soloist

Refrain: Hear the voice crying in the wilderness? Can you hear the crying? (repeat these words)
Saying, "Prepare ye, prepare ye, prepare ye the way of the Lord."

1. First came the prophet crying in the wilderness, speaking to the people saying,
"One is coming both to judge and save; you must prepare the way of the Lord." *Refrain*
2. Then came the Baptist crying in the wilderness, "I baptize you with water, Oh, Oh,
But one is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." *Refrain*
3. Now we join the crying in the wilderness. Let us lift up our voices saying,
"Come, Lord Jesus, now into our lives. Let us prepare the way of the Lord." *Refrain*

Texts: Isaiah 40:3, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:30, Luke 3:40, paraphrased by the composer, Marc Robinson © 1996 Neil A Kjos Music Company

PASTORAL BLESSING**BENEDICTION**

- ☐ The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
- ☑ **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *People, Look East**ELW Hymn 248*

- 1** **People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Guest, is on the way.**
- 3** **Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Star, is on the way.**
- 4** **Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

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DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Altar Guild: Pat Oliver, Pat Frye, Vickie Dauenhauer

Tech Crew: Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn

Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by JoniLynn Siepert, in celebration of the birthday of Elaine Cox.