

# The First Sunday in Advent



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia  
November 27, 2022  
8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia

The First Sunday in Advent ☩ November 27, 2022 ☩ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister in Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the red hymnal)  
⤴ Please stand as you are able.

**PRELUDE**

*Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion.*

*Communion is offered by intinction: you may receive a wafer and dip it in the chalice with wine*

*or white grape juice. Or you may pick up a prefilled 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 Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

☑ **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

☐ Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

☑ **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

☐ People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ☩ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. ☑ **Amen.**

**EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

⤴ **GATHERING HYMN: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

*ELW Hymn 244*

**1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;**

**the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.**

**The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.**

**Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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!**

## ↑ GREETING

3

- ℙ 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 147*

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

## ↑ HYMN OF PRAISE: *Glory to God in the Highest (The Song of the Angels)*

*ELW Page 148*

- ℒ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.  
☩ **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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☩ **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5

- ℒ Our First Lesson is from Isaiah, the second chapter.

Isaiah son of Amoz saw this message about Judah and Jerusalem:

<sup>2</sup>In the last days the mountain on which the Lord's Temple stands will become the most important of all mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and people from all nations will come streaming to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob. Then God will teach us his ways, and we will obey his teachings." His teachings will go out from Jerusalem; the message of the Lord will go out from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He will settle arguments among the nations and will make decisions for many nations. Then they will make their swords into plows and their spears into hooks for trimming trees. Nations will no longer fight other nations, nor will they train for war anymore.

<sup>5</sup>Come, family of Jacob, and let us follow the way of the Lord.

- ℒ Word of God, word of life. ☩ **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.**

Text: Cameroon traditional

Public Domain

## ↑ GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

- ℙ The Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.  
☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“No one knows when that day or time will be, not the angels in heaven, not even the Son. Only the Father knows. <sup>37</sup>When the Son of Man comes, it will be like what happened during Noah’s time.

<sup>38</sup>In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving their children to be married, until the day Noah entered the boat. <sup>39</sup>They knew nothing about what was happening until the flood came and destroyed them. It will be the same when the Son of Man comes.

<sup>40</sup>Two men will be in the field. One will be taken, and the other will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding grain with a mill. One will be taken, and the other will be left. <sup>42</sup>“So always be ready, because you don’t know the day your Lord will come.

<sup>43</sup>Remember this: If the owner of the house knew what time of night a thief was coming, the owner would watch and not let the thief break in. <sup>44</sup>So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at a time you don’t expect him.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Miriam

⤴ **HYMN OF THE DAY:** *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.**
- 4 **Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race  
the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.**
- 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.

⤴ **OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

☞ Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

☞ **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 “God, in your mercy,” please respond, “hear our prayer.”*

*The prayers are ended with these words, “God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray.”*

*Please respond, “Amen.”*

## OFFERING

*We acknowledge that you may have already offered your gifts electronically or by mail. Thank you.*

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





## 6 SHARING COMMUNION AT CHURCH or at home with your household

*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church.  
Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles.  
You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in the chalice of wine or white grape juice.  
You may also choose a packaged cup with wine or grape juice, or a gluten-free wafer with wine.  
At home commune each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:  
“The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

**THE AGNUS DEI:** *Lamb of God*

*ELW page 154*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

**COMMUNION HYMN:** *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

*[All Creation Sings Hymn 901]*

- 1** Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.  
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:  
seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse’s stem!  
Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome him.
- 2** Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.  
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.  
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim.  
Heaven’s ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him.
- 3** Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom’s seed,  
come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need.  
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view;  
Child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.

OneLicense #A701929

## † PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

- ☞ God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.                      ☞ Amen.

† SENDING HYMN: *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

*[All Creation Sings Hymn 949]*

- 1** Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work’s almost done. *Refrain*

*Refrain: Children, don’t grow weary; children, don’t grow weary;  
children, don’t grow weary, for this work’s almost done.*

- 2** Darker midnight lies before us, darker midnight lies before us,  
darker midnight lies before us, for this work’s almost done. *Refrain*
- 3** Lo, the morning soon is breaking, lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
lo, the morning soon is breaking, for this work’s almost done. *Refrain*
- 4** Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work’s almost done. *Refrain*

## † DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace, with God beside you. Invite everyone to Jesus’ pathway of joy and life!  
☞ Thanks be to God.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. License #SAS000345.  
New Revised Standard Version Bible, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

*Altar Guild: Pat Oliver and Pat Fry                      Ushers: Stephen Gundersen and John Musil (8:30); Mike and Pat Oliver (11:00)  
Tech Team: Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins (8:30); Brad McCumber, Brad Milburn (11:00)  
Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Linda Volckmann, in gratitude for children and grandchildren.*