

WORSHIP NOTES
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Hope
November 27 & 28, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Advent is a season for us to grow in hope. We gather amid a world that in many ways seems hopeless. Extremists on both ends of the political spectrum seem to control almost everything we hear, read, and see. Deep divisions over race, politics, and economics loom over us like a dark storm cloud. How can the Church possibly make a difference in all of this? Today's Readings acknowledge the distress and fear that the world's foundations are being shaken. And right in the middle of it all, there is hope. Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Luke 21:33). The prophet Jeremiah declares God's promise to restore His people and all creation. If we were left to ourselves, there would be little room for such hope. But God does not leave us alone. By His Word and Sacraments, God establishes our hearts and prepares us for Jesus' coming final restoration. Until that day, we wait, we pray, we hope.



ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE III LSB 184

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING SENTENCES *Jeremiah 33:14–15; Luke 21:27, 33, adapt.*

P The LORD says, "I will fulfill the promise I made to the houses of Israel and Judah."

C **We thank You, O Lord!**

P The LORD says, "My righteous Branch will cause justice and righteousness to spring up."

C **We adore You, O Lord!**

P The LORD says, "You will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

C **We praise You, O Lord!**

P The LORD says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."

C **We worship You, O Lord!**

OPENING HYLMN LSB 343 "PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY"

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

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

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins.
C **AMEN**

+ **WORD** +

INTROIT *Psalm 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

P Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

C **Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?**

P Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.

C **Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,**

P who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted.

C **For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection

C **we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins**

P and saved by Your mighty deliverance;

C **for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 33:14–16*

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

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

PSALM *Psalm 25:1–10; antiphon: v. 6*

P Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

C **To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.**

P O my God, in You I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.
C **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

P Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
teach me Your paths.
L **Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation;
for You I wait all the day long.**

P Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
C **Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

P Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
C **He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.**

P All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
C **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 3:9–13*

⁹What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

VERSE *Psalm 24:7*

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

C ♪Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 21:25–36*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁵[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED

C **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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 331 “THE ADVENT OF OUR KING”

- 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.
- D 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

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SERMON “We Have Heard”¹ Thessalonians 3:9-13

Introduction:

Have you experienced the joyous sensation of seeing someone arrive safely to their home? It may have been a loved one who returned home from war. It may have been a family member who arrived in spite of the blizzard roaring outside. There is a sense of relief and ecstatic joy. There may even have been screams of delight and bear hugs.

If you have, you may now understand the joy and delight that Paul had when he heard that the Christians in Thessalonica had remain faithful to Christ in spite of the persecution they had faced.

I. Thanksgiving

Paul states that he can't even begin to give all the thanks and praise God deserves. He knew it was the Father's grace through His Son, Jesus Christ which kept them in the one true faith. He knew it was not their strength of character that held them firm in faith in Christ. He knew it wasn't their deep commitment that helped them resist the dangers that pressed against their faith.

Paul knew this was the work of the Holy Spirit who creates and sustains the faith of the believer in Christ Jesus. This is why his thanksgiving is point solely to the Lord. Paul knew the weakness of the flesh and also the power of the Holy Spirit to hold one steadfast in faith. He knew this, for he had gone through severe persecution. He knew that it was only by the grace of God and His strength that has kept him in the one true faith.

And this is true for you and me. You and I have been kept in the one true faith till life everlasting because of the work of the Holy Spirit in and through the Word and the Sacraments. We face many an obstacle to our faith in Christ. It may come in the form of pressure to be like the world around us. It may come as distractions that draw us away from the Word and the Sacraments. It may come from within ourselves who want to rule our own thoughts, words and deeds. It may come from a false belief that says, “I know all this. What need do I have to hear His Word or receive His Sacraments?”

II. The Desire that All Remain Faithful till the Coming of the Lord

Paul answers that false belief when he says, “That I may supply what is lacking in your faith.” Paul knew that no one has perfect faith. It needs to continually be nurtured and refreshed. He knew how Satan attacks faith. Satan looks for the holes in our faith in Christ. He attacks our thought, our words and our deeds. He tempts us to sin and to sin in such a way that we reject or refuse to receive God grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

This is why Paul wanted to see the Christians in Thessalonica. He wanted to preach and teach the Word of God that their faith may be strengthen and held firmly in their hearts. He wanted them to be found faithful on the day Christ returns. He wanted them to have their sins washed away through the hearing of God's Word. He wanted them steadfast in faith when Christ

returns with all the saints in heaven.

This is why the Church on earth continues to go and preach the Word of God to all the nations. The Church on earth, that is, you, I, and all the believers in Christ, wants to spread, teach and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. We, too, want all people to come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and be saved.

Conclusion:

As a part of the Church on earth, we are delighted to hear how Christians have remained faithful to Christ Jesus. We delight in hearing how others in the Church have held to the one true faith in spite of the obstacles and pressures they faced. It is our joy and delight to see those around us who hold to the truths of God's Word. We unceasingly give thanks to God, who has kept them and us in the one true faith till life everlasting.

We want what God wants, that is, we want all people to be blameless and holy at the coming of the Lord. God grant that His grace and forgiveness keep us blameless and holy in His sight. And may the joy of knowing we will see those saints who have kept the faith, fellow members of the Church, friends and family members, who have kept the faith in Christ till the end, fill our heart with exceeding joy and delight.

+ AME

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

P O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to yearn for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in justice and righteousness, and all creation will be restored. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially . . .*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration

of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN LSB 787 "THE TEMPLE RANG WITH GOLDEN COINS"*sts. 1, 5*

1 The temple rang with golden coins
The rich in bright array
Contributed from gleaming hoards
Their scales could scarcely weigh.

5 Lord, help us all, with You, to yield
Whatever love demands
And freely give, as You have giv'n,
With open hearts and hands.

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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.

HYMNS +

HYMN LSB 374 *“GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD”*

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

- 2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

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HYMN LSB 357 *“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”*

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

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HYMN LSB 353 "*JESUS CAME, THE HEAVENS ADORING*"

1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.

2 Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.

3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.

4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comforts us in failing years.

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BENEDICTION *LSB 166*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
C **Amen.**

HYMN OF DEPARTURE LSB 348 *"THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS"*

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.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.

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!

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