

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

10:15 am

Prelude

Introduction

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✚ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #260 “The King Shall Come”

- 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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Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, 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. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The LORD is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says 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 live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up-right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice

and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰ **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Stand up and raise your heads your redemption is drawing near. *Alleluia.*

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Luke starting with the 21st Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #438 "My Lord, What a Morning"

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

- 1. You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (refrain)**
- 2. You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (refrain)**
- 3. You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (refrain)**

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Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Peace

Offering

Offering Hymn: ELW #686

"We Give Thee But Thine Own" 1st verse

- 1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

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Offering Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.**

Invitation to Communion

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Distribution Hymn: ELW #715 "Christ, Be Our Light"

**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.*

**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:**

**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:**

**4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for worth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. Refrain:**

**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:**

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Post-communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✝ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #248 "People, Look East"

1. **People, look east. The time is near of the crowing 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.**
2. **Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish. People, look east, and sing today Love, the Rose, is on the way.**
3. **Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shing 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.**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

- ✝ **Thank You Pastor Barb Streed** for leading worship today.
- ✝ Calvary is looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to represent Calvary on the **Welcome Committee**, which is where Calvary and four other Mankato ELCA churches are sponsoring a family of four from Nicaragua. Ariac and Andrea Cruz and their two boys have been in Minnesota almost two years. This committee meets monthly at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Contact Bob Diesch or Jolene Anderson for more information on the committee.
- ✝ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Vivian, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Chloe, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Jane, and Paul.

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