



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

November 28, 2021,

First Sunday of Advent

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”

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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.

Prelude

Pat Anderson

Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion. Holy Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.

Advent Reading

One: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light a candle to help us see. To help us see the signs of Christ’s coming and Christ’s presence. Though the sea waves roar and the stars shine but dimly in distress, Christ’s light pierces through the clouds of our fear and foreboding, casting gleams of peace and glimmers of hope. Though the heavens shake, we pray, standing tall with heads raised, watching for signs of God’s love. And so, we eagerly wait for the sign, in a manger, of God’s grace.

ALL: Blessed are those who believe that the kingdom of God is near.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Izzy Warman

Hymn “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (vs. 1)

Red Worship Book 240

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

L: God for whom we wait,

C: 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. Amen.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Hymn "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believer"

Red Worship Book 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 suffrings 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

Red Worship Book pg. 147

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book pg. 149-150

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Alleluia

Prayer of the Day

C: 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.

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.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

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 25:1-10

L: To you, O LORD,

C: I lift up my soul.

L: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,

C: nor let my enemies triumph over me.

L: Let none who look to you be put to shame;

C: rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

L: Show me your ways, O LORD,

C: and teach me your paths.

L: Lead me in your truth and teach me,

C: for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

L: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,

C: for they are from everlasting.

L: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

C: remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

L: You are gracious and upright, O LORD;

C: therefore you teach sinners in your way.

L: You lead the lowly in justice

C: and teach the lowly your way.

L: All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness

C: to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

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.

Second Lesson: Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever 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, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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

Red Worship Book pg. 151

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

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.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

[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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven 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, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Children's Sermon

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Sermon Waiting for a Sign Luke 21: 25-36

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

There was a song a few years ago, Signs. The writer and the song sing about signs that read negative. *Sign, sign. Everywhere a sign. Blockin' out the scenery, Breakin' my mind. Do this, don't do that. Can't you read the sign?*

Can you read the signs? Signs point to something, have many meanings, some we enjoy reading like a joke, and some we would just as well not read. It appears that the disciples are asking for a sign as well. When we see or imagine a sign, we expect something, direction or instruction. Jesus is near his death and resurrection, and we are starting our new year in Luke, at the end. Jesus has taught and healed, told them he would die, and foretold that the temple torn down. All of what Jesus said in his prophecy proclaims and looks like it is not going to be well for the people.

We look forward to Advent and we find ourselves going backward, instead of the beginning. We will go from this warning to watch for signs, to John the Baptist, Elizabeth and Mary, and the Birth of Jesus. A reverse order of sorts. Things were bad when the book of Luke put down on paper. The temple destroyed, those who believed in God and Jesus Christ persecuted, and times were hard.

Sound familiar for us? Looking to the future, we must remember the past. Where might the Good News be in our Scripture reading today? Is this what we come to church to hear? The signs Jesus talks about, the sun and the moon, earth roaring, nation against nation, fear and foreboding. We could once again just look around and be echoing Jesus' words right? What will be, what is, what is shaken, we will see?

Jesus tells the disciples what they know to be true, when spring comes and you see the leaves sprouting, you know spring is near. Looking at the past can help for the fig tree, if it has been fertilized, tended, pruned, given a rest, all of these things, after the winter, after the spring, after all the changes of a season. Yet, not all survive after the bud. Could be too little water or too much, fire or heat, any of those things can alter the events.

We enter into this reality at times feeling hopeless. Jesus says, we will be faint hearted, taking our breathe away. This is true. In our lives just in this last week we have had devastation of poor decisions and heartaches for the community in chaos, the evil we feel rendered in in Waukesha, Wisconsin, to just name one, when hear

news of violence and hatred, death and mourning, misunderstanding and division, The climate worries, distress and just life itself. Jesus breathes into devastation. Jesus says the Reign of God will not be shaken or taken away, no matter how undone and full of chaos and hurts happen; God's way endures with the Son. There is hope for all people of the earth and we do not shy away from these words from Jesus Christ. In fact, we look closer to the Son of Humanity, the Son of Man, and cling to his words of promise and hope. God in the past, God and the Son in the present, and in the future.

God again is doing a new thing in Advent. Look around for the signs, the grace, in gratitude and thanksgiving that we are not alone. God has and will send the Son. God will keep his promises because our redemption is near. His words will never fade away. Lift up your head. Remember the past as we go towards the beginning of the wonderful Birth of Jesus Christ and the salvation and peace he brings to the world. Stand up and raise your heads. Heaven and earth will pass away, yet Jesus says my words will never pass away. Be on guard. Be alert. Pray. Pray the words of joy and hope from the Apostle Paul.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. Amen.

Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1-4)

Red Worship Book 257

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. ***Refrain***

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. ***Refrain***

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. ***Refrain***

Offering Prayer –You may leave your offering as you exit the church, table with offering plates are there.

L: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C: Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

L: God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters (*especially*), for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Red Worship Book pg. 152

L; The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Red Worship Book pg. 153

L: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest

Words of Institution

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

Red Worship Book pg. 154

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.

Lamb of God

Red Worship Book pg. 154

L: 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, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

Red Worship Book 461

- 1 All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
- 2 All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
- 3 All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Communion Hymn

“Blessed Assurance”

Red Worship Book 638

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long: this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

Prayer after Communion

L: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

C: Amen.

Hymn

“Fling Wide the Door” (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

Red Worship Book 259

- 1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King of glory comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Savior of the world who brings his great salvation to the earth. So raise a shout of holy mirth and praise our God and Lord, Creator, Spirit, Word.
- 2 He is the rock of our belief, the heart of mercy's gentle self. His kingly crown is holiness; his scepter is his loveliness; he brings our sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend, and worship him with song for saving us from wrong.
- 4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; our hearts are open wide in trust. Oh, show us now your lovely grace, upon our sorrows shine your face, and let your Holy Spirit guide our journey in your grace so wide. We praise your holy name, from age to age the same!

Blessing

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

the worship is ended ... let the service begin...



****The Noisy offering this month is for ELCA World Hunger there will be a bowl as you exit the church.****

Next Week's Readings and Psalm

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

Psalm

Luke 1:68-79

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ Leigha Ness, Jean Bergum, Paul Shoher, Marie Sigler (niece of Virgil Seegebarth), David (brother of Colleen Volden), Debra Hocum (Kathryn Souer's daughter-in-laws mother), Yvonne Guptaill, Bonnie Carlson (friend of Donna Martin), Ken Carlson (brother-in-law of Don Peterson), Drew (Mindy's brother), Vicki Marks, Colton Thompson, Reverend Norm Belland, Kim Reisig (sister-in-law of Amy Tvedt), Tyler (son of Jan Peura), and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny)

For our members in care facilities ~ Ruta Kalnins and Dorothy Svendsen.

For firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke



We express our Christian sympathy to the families of Luanita Ledowski (mother of Deby Volk); John Bassett; Bill Gotschall (brother of Deanna Gorsegner); and Lee Guilliams. May they know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and give them peace.



Lighting of Advent Wreath

December 5th- Second Sunday of Advent-Rissa and Ella Steinke

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am First Sunday of Advent Worship/HC

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

Wed. 11:30 am Advent lunch; Noon Worship; 5-7 pm Confirmation; 5-6:30 pm FiA; 6:30 pm Worship; 7-8 pm Youth Group.

Thurs. 8 am Men's Text Study; Mindy Networking meeting; pickup Christmas trees.

Fri. 9 am decorate Church for Christmas.

Sat. 8 am-1 pm Amanda Roubinek using Fellowship Hall for Black Santa Experience 9 am-Noon; 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Second Sunday of Advent Worship/HC.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 8th -9 am Library

Wednesday, December 8th -11:30 am Advent lunch with Noon Worship

Thursday, December 9th - 11 am Staff Christmas Party off-site

Thursday, December 9th -Double Wide Texas Christmas

Saturday, December 11th -For King and Country Concert

Wednesday, December 15th -11:10 am Advent lunch and Noon Worship

Wednesday, December 15th - 6:30 pm Blue Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 19th 9:30 Worship with Youth Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19th -Noon Baptism

Sunday, December 19th -Church Council

Sunday, December 19th Youth Bake Sale