

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1st, 2024 – 10 AM



WELCOME

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.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

✝ Preacher – Reverend Wes Smith

✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

CONFESSION & 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. 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.**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#249 – On Jordon’s Banks the Baptist Cries

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.**

GOD’S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9: 6 - 7

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We welcome the beginning of this holy season of Advent with great joy. Jesus Christ is the center of our worship and the true light that dispels the darkness at times that surrounds us! We light this first candle of our Advent Wreath that invites us to embrace the true Light of Christ and the peace for our world that Christ brings us! We pray that our hearts and our world may once again be recreated by the power of God that dwells among us!

The First Advent Candle is lit!



ADVENT HYMN – Lift Up your Heads

Lift up your heads to the coming King.
Bow before Him and adore Him, Sing,
To His majesty let your praises be
Pure and Holy giving glory to the King of Kings.

C. 1983 Birdwing Music/Cherry Lane Music Publishing Co.

Psalm 34: 11 - 18

¹¹Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹²**Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good?**

¹³Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.

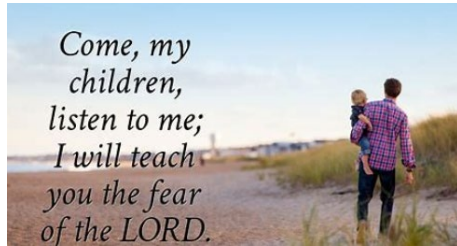
¹⁴**Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.**

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE LESSON: A Reading from Romans 5: 1 - 5; Glory to You, O Lord!

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Here ends the reading of God's Holy Word ...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – "Peace With God Through the Prince of Peace"

Reverend Wes Smith

HYMN: ELW#255 – There's a Voice in the Wilderness

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's peace. *A brief silence.*

God of 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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Grace those from our families and community in greatest need of our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth and provides for all, signs of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Receive these offerings from your bounty and bless them to be used for your glory as we prepare for the birth of your son, Jesus. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages, to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He fulfilled all your will. He stretched out his hands in suffering, in order to free from suffering those who trust in you. As he was born to die, you raised him from death to life, so that we too know that we shall be raised from death to life.

We therefore remember that he took bread, and after giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.



And in the same way, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. And unto that time, we come before you praying;

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 – Come to Christ’s banquet. Feast on God’s gift of grace.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!
COMMUNION HYMNS

Change My Heart O God	We Worship You Lord
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.	We worship You, Lord, we worship You. With every fiber of our being, we worship You. Come and dwell within our midst, as we glorify Your name, You are worthy to be praised, and we worship You! © 1987, Sound III, Inc, CCLI License # 22085334

Closing Prayer - 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. **Amen.**

Blessing – The God of peace fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may live in peace by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ELW#239 – Hark the Glad Sound

Song of Blessing

May God’s blessing surround you each day,
 As you trust God and walk in God’s way.
 May God’s presence within guard and keep you from sin,
 Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

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Dismissal: Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

