

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 1st, 2024 – 8:30 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. Brian Griswold
- † Worship Leader – Earl Hem

WORSHIP

HYMN: We Belong to You

Holy and kind, and just with all men
Is the Lord who rules o’er the land
We lift our voices and sing unto Him
Who is holy and kind and just with all men

Chorus

Honor and Glory and blessing and power
Belong to Thee O Lord among gods
Honor and glory and blessing and power
Belong to Thee O Lord among gods

Chorus

We belong to you, Lord; we belong to You
All of our praises, belong to You

Chorus

Gracious Redeemer, merciful friend
Perfect in all that You do
Righteous and mighty before all men
All of our praises belong to You

“Holy and Kind”, Written by Andy Nowlen, Jill Lyle and Robin Lyle; c. 1996 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, CCLI License # 22085334

HYMN: You Are My All In All

You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all

Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord to give up, I’d be a fool
You are my all in all

Chorus

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
Rising again, I bless Your name
You are my all in all

When I fell down, you pick me up
When I am dry, you fill my cup
You are my all in all

Chorus (x2)

Worthy is your name

Chorus:

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name

ADVENT HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Sal & Barbara Annarumma

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 lighted!

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!**

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.

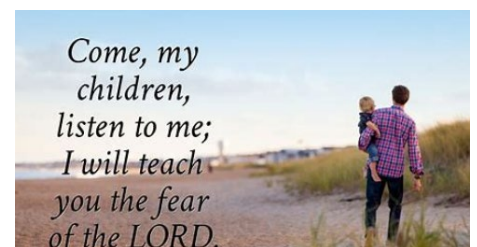
¹⁴**Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.**

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.**



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

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.**

OFFERING HYMN: 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 | 3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: Refrain |
| 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 | 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 |

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ We recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

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.**

THE LORDS PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: Salvation Belongs to Our God

Salvation belongs to our God, Who sits upon the throne:
And unto the Lamb, Praise and glory,
Wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength.

Chorus

And we the redeemed shall be strong,
In purpose and unity, declaring aloud,
Praise and glory, wisdom, and thanks,
Honor and power and strength.

Chorus

Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
Honor and power and strength.

Chorus

Chorus

Be to our God, forever and ever,
Be to our God, forever and ever,
Be to our God, forever and ever,
Amen

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Dismissal: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

Notes:

