



**+ First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 28, 2021**



**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
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## **+ First Sunday of Advent Order for Worship**

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

***A few notes on precautions and protocols, which apply to everyone regardless of vaccination status, as St. Andrew returns to worship in the sanctuary:***

- Face masks that fully cover both your mouth and nose are required at all times for everyone over the age of two (2) – the only exception being the brief moment of moving mask aside to partake in Holy Communion.
- Outside food and drink are thus not permissible during worship.
- Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet will be observed at all times for people not from your household.
- We invite the congregation to voice responses and prayers during worship. A cantor will sing the hymns with a mask on, and the rest of the congregation is encouraged to follow along silently.
- We ask that everyone use hand sanitizer, either your own or from the bottles throughout the sanctuary, especially prior to Holy Communion.

***Worship Services are live streamed to multiple online platforms.***

***By attending worship, you agree that your image and voice may be broadcast.***

## Welcome

## Prelude

# Gathering

*Please rise as you are able.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: 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.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's tender mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: 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  
and to care for our neighbors.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We seek identity and security through material wealth.**

**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.**

P: 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.**

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

*One of the best-known customs for the season of Advent is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness in the Northern Hemisphere strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is intended as an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, and/or the wheel of time.*

*Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath – as we gather in worship as a congregation each week, we progressively light the candles of the wreath and pray together.*

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God our righteousness, for you fulfill your promises to the house of Israel and the house of Judah, and proclaim that your day of justice and salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, help us to be alert in watching for the day of the Lord's coming. Strengthen us in holiness, increase our love for one another and for all, and direct our way in all things to you.

**C: Amen.**

P: O house of David, come,

**C: Let us prepare for the day of redemption drawing near.**

*We ask that those present in the church sanctuary refrain from singing the hymns aloud.  
The assembly gathered from afar is encouraged to sing!*

**Gathering Hymn**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**ELW 254**

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
  
- 2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit**

**rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707- 1788. Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835.

## **Greeting**

P: 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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Word**

### **First Reading – Jeremiah 33: 14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The 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. <sup>15</sup>In 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. <sup>16</sup>In 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.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 25: 1-10**

*The psalm will be read responsively, with the lector leading  
and the congregation responding with the verses indicated in bold.*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,**

**nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

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

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

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

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

<sup>7</sup>Remember 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.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**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**

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

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And may the Lord 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

## **Gospel Acclamation** (*Spoken*)

**C: Alleluia. Rise up and raise your heads – your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.**

## **Gospel – Luke 21: 25-36**

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“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. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be

shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Humanity coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory.

<sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“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, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>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 Humanity.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Sermon**

*Please rise as you are able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

**O Lord, How Shall I Meet You  
v. 1-3**

**ELW 241**

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight!  
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,  
your lamp within my breast  
to do in spirit lowly  
all that may please you best.**
  
- 2 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
you came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
you came to honor me.  
A glorious crown you give me,  
a treasure safe on high  
that will not fail or leave me**

as earthly riches fly.

**3 Love caused your incarnation;  
love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
that led you to embrace  
in love, all love excelling,  
our lost and fallen race.**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite. Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662.

## **Prayers of the People**

P: Strengthened by God's promises through Jesus Christ,  
we pray for all people and places who yearn for God's presence.

*After each petition*

P: Hear us, O God;

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of new life, you come among us in places we least expect.

Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated while the table is being prepared.  
We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.*

*An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary  
for those who would like to offer gifts as you leave worship today.*

## **Meal**

*Please rise as you are able.*

## **Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray. God of our watching and waiting,

**C: 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.  
Amen.

## Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

## Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...  
... and join their unending hymn.

## Sanctus

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life ...  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup ...  
We look with hope for Christ's coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit ...  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours ...  
one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Fraction and Invitation**

### ***Agnus Dei* / Lamb of God**

**C: 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Holy Communion**

- *Please use hand sanitizer prior to receiving Communion.*
- *We will not be kneeling at the altar rail due to the need for physical distancing.*
- *Worshipers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *The Communion wafers (regular and gluten-free) have been thoughtfully prepared using the gifts of the congregation by a member of St. Andrew's altar care team, with a drop of wine or grape juice on each. The presiding minister will distribute one to each communicant from the ciborium using sanitary tongs.*
- *When you reach the presiding minister, please indicate if you would like grape juice or a gluten-free wafer.*

- *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament, following physical distancing guidelines.*
- *Everyone is asked to wait until you return to your place to consume the elements, and then promptly replace your mask.*

## **Hymn during Holy Communion**

### **Unexpected and Mysterious v. 1, 3**

***ELW 258***

- 1 Unexpected and mysterious  
is the gentle word of grace.  
Everloving and sustaining  
is the peace of God's embrace.  
If we falter in our courage  
and we doubt what we have known,  
God is faithful to console us  
as a mother tends her own.**
  
- 3 We are called to ponder myst'ry  
and await the coming Christ,  
to embody God's compassion  
for each fragile human life.  
God is with us in our longing  
to bring healing to the earth,  
while we watch with joy and wonder  
for the promised Savior's birth.**

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961. Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984. Text © 2002, Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

*When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.*

## **Blessing**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**C: Amen.**

## **Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray.  
God for whom we wait,  
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.  
Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Sending

### Benediction

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### *Abbreviations*

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

L: Lector

**C: Congregation**

***ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal***

### *Those serving in worship today*

Piano

Organ

Cantor

Lector

Director of Faith Formation

Presiding Minister

Lily Cai

Jimmi Kocher-Hillmer

Timothy Kocher-Hillmer

Joyce Compton

Christopher Atwood

Pastor Ross Carmichael

### *Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements*

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