

THERE WILL
BE SIGNS
IN THE **SUN,**
THE **MOON,**
AND
THE **STARS**

LUKE 21:25

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

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The Rev. James N. West, Interim Pastor

Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, 2024 Advent 1

Preparing to Hear Today's Readings

As Advent begins, we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' first coming to the world in the light of a Gospel text that promises his final coming. We, like the gospel writer Luke, live in the time between these two "advents" of Jesus.

Today's gospel gives us guidance on how to live faithfully as we wait for Jesus to return. However, in this in-between time, it is easy for us to become distracted and lose sight of the promises of Jesus. Daily tasks and routines can lull us into apathy. Ease and success can allow us to ignore our spiritual needs. Struggles, setbacks, our daily news feeds, all can cause us to lose hope and fall into despair. But Jesus tells us we should not feel beaten down or defeated by the struggles of this world, but instead "stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Preservice Music

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God, we lift up our souls.

**You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.**

**Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.**

**Show us your ways; teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.

Remember the gift of baptism:
 your sin is washed away in the name of ✚ Jesus;
 you belong to Christ.
 Stand up and raise your heads!
 The reign of God is near. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

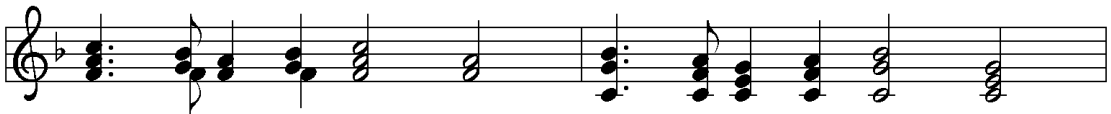
No. 254

Advent Greeting

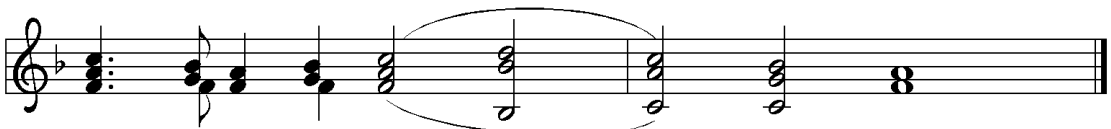
In the days to come,
 the holy mountain of the Lord’s house
 shall be raised above the hills;
 and all nations shall stream to it.
Come, let us go up to the house of our God.

From the One who is and who was
 and who is to come, the Almighty:
 grace, light, and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie



1, 3	Ky - ri - e	e - lei - son.	Ky - ri - e	e - lei - son.
2	Chris - te	e - lei - son.	Chris - te	e - lei - son.
1, 3	Lord, . . .	have mer - cy.	Lord,	have mer - cy.
2	Christ, . . .	have mer - cy.	Christ,	have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e	e - le	-	i - son.
Chris - te	e - le	-	i - son.
Lord, . . .	have mer	-	cy.
Christ, . . .	have mer	-	cy.

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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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 the Lord 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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

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 upright, 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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Candles of Advent and Christmas *A Children's Presentation*

**Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"**

Blessing of the Advent Wreath *(We stand)*

Today is the first Sunday of Advent -
a time to prepare again for the coming of Jesus.

**We light a candle to remind us that
Jesus brings light into the dark places of the world.**

Through the prophet Jeremiah,
God gave the people of Israel hope for a future -
a future gently ruled by a 'righteous Branch'
who would spring from King David's descendants.

**We share in this hope our children just proclaimed.
We wait in our time for the righteous branch to come again,
the one who is the Light of the world.**

As the 1st candle is lit, we sing

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.**

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: “Lift Up Your Chins!”

Hymn of the Day “Creator of the Stars of Night”

No. 245

Nicene Creed

We confess with one another and to our God, those things we know to be eternally true.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,

and was made man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in evergreens and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers – even in faraway Ukraine and the Holy Land. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Children's Message (Sunday)

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Song for Advent "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

No. 490

Offering Prayer

God our provider, by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff has the same treble clef and key signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord."

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary
 that we should at all times and in all places
 offer thanks and praise to you,
 O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God.
 You comforted your people
 with the promise of the Redeemer,
 through whom you will also make all things new
 in the day when he comes again
 to judge the world in righteousness.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 : san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy Father,

You are the beginning and the end, the giver of all life:

It is You who gave birth to creation,

You, from whom all light has shined,

You, who is faithful to your promises,

You, who opened Mary to your will.

You, from who your Son proceeds, your Word made flesh.

Our Lord's Words of Institution

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word made flesh,

dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

May your Word now take flesh in us,

filling us with your light and bringing to us the gift of peace.

To you O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom

and teach us to pray:

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

The food of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Special Music “All the World Awaits (Hosanna)” Performed by Chris Tomlin

Prayer after Communion

Most loving God,
In this meal you have given us a foretaste
of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Bless these gifts to your purpose
and teach us patience and hope
as we care for those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn “People Look East”

No. 248

Dismissal

Go in peace. The reign of God is near.
Thanks be to God.

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Readers/Communion Assistants

Ushers

Nov 30 Jack Weisbrodt
Dec 1 Ray Leverknight

Nov 30 Tim & Kerri Moyer
Dec 1 Raho Family

Dec 7 ****HELP WANTED****
Dec 8 Jamie McMullen

Dec 7 The Rychak's
Dec 8 ****HELP WANTED****

Dec 14 ****HELP WANTED****
Dec 15 Shannon Reed

Dec 14 Pat Bittner & Linda Barnhart
Dec 15 ****HELP WANTED****

Dec 21 ****HELP WANTED****
Dec 22 Jamie McMullen

Dec 21 Tim & Kerri Moyer
Dec 22 Mayket Family



POINTSETTIA WORLD HUNGER

ORDER FORM DUE ****DECEMBER 1****

POINTSETTIAS

IN HONOR OF _____ HOW MANY _____

IN MEMORY OF _____ HOW MANY _____

WORLD HUNGER

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF 6" POINTSETTIA _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DONATION FOR WORLD HUNGER = \$ _____