

First Sunday in Advent

November 27, 2022

Introit

Psalm 118:25–28; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.



Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*

O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!

You are my God, and I will give | thanks to you;*

you are my God; I will ex- | tol you.

*Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**

and to the Holy | Spirit;

*as it was in the be- | ginning,**

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Collect of the Day

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,

³and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Gradual *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle

Romans 13:8–14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1–11

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, ⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Calendar

Sunday, November 27

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School—PreK to Adult
- 10:15 a.m. Divine Service

Wednesday, November 30

- 12:30 p.m. Advent with Esther Reflections (Livestream)
- 6:15 p.m. Conf. and Absolution
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Midweek 1

Thursday, December 1

- Ag. Summit for Lutheran High Schools—Concordia, Seward

Sunday, December 4

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School—PreK to Adult
- 10:15 a.m. Divine Service

Prayers of the Church

 +Sanctity of Human Life+ protection of the weak and vulnerable +Grieving+ family and friends of Shirley Peters; Rosella Hiegel and family at the death of her sister, Jean Bangert +Healing, Recovery, Strength+ +Anita Bryant (knee replacement); Russ Kunze (tumor and radiation); Albert Schipman (arm); Rosie Morthole (back surgery); Skip Meyer (pain and recovery); Sandy Royle (leg) +Military+ Tyson Rasmussen; Kurt Morthole; Joseph Markvicka; Andrew Panter + Missions, Outreach, and Christian Education+ Global missions—Thailand; Lutheran Church of Nigeria and Lutheran Bible Translator projects; Nebraska Dist.—St. John, Oxford, NE; Heartland Lutheran High School; Concordia, Seward and all our Concordias; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne and Concordia Sem., St. Louis.

Please remember these people in prayer during your home devotions. Call 687-6314 or email cniem@kdsi.net if you have a petition to be included in the prayers.

Memory Verse Challenge—Week of Nov. 27, 2022

The church is encouraged to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...” (Col. 3:16). The LCMS invites everyone to join together memorizing a verse together each week:

Jeremiah 31:33-34

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

On Baptism

“To be baptized in God’s name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God Himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God’s own act.” (Luther’s Large Catechism—Baptism. The Book of Concord, Kolb/Wenger ed. Augsburg: Minneapolis, 2000. pg. 457.10)

“See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking As a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.” (Lutheran Service Book #593, stz. 4)

Private Confession and Absolution: Pastor will be available at the back of the sanctuary from 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. before this Wednesday's November 30th service to hear confession and share absolution. He is also available by appointment for those who desire the gift at a different time.

Advent Midweek—For A Time Such as This: You are invited to prepare for 7 p.m. Wednesday services by also listening to “*Advent with Esther Reflections*” from 12:30 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. on our congregation’s Livestream page (“Zion, Worms”) Each Wednesday in Advent Pastor Niemeier will offer reflections on a portion of Esther. See insert on the narthex table for more information.

Wednesday, November 30

- 12:30 Livestream reflections and 7 p.m. Vespers
 - Theme: A New Era in Race Relations (Esther 3:1-15)
 - Readings to Prepare: Esther 1-3
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Heartland Lutheran High School:

- Students who wish to enroll for the spring 2023 semester can plan their visit now; call the HLHS office at 308-385-3900 to arrange. Full tuition scholarships for new students for their first semester of attendance are still available!
 - “We are in need of Kleenex! If you are able or have any extra boxes sitting around, please consider donating them to us. We would greatly appreciate it. Thank you!” -HLHS Office
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Life Quote: “Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand.” *Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life ● lutheransforlife.org● Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.*

Sacred Music for the Advent Season: “Savior of the Nations, Come,” “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry,” “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending,” “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding,” “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” You can listen to sacred music for the Advent season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

What Makes for a Cheerful Giver?

St. Paul wrote to Church of Christ in Corinth: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, he gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight. Abraham was. By faith, he prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall we say? For time would fail us to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything – yes, even His life – enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ, give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart for the joy set before us. It’s the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship
