



HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING!

First Sunday of Advent  
NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Hope

# american

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# volunteer

Select a Sunday.  
Select a Role.

BE OF SERVICE.



## OUR MISSION

We are people who worship Jesus Christ, reaching out to teach and share his love for people. We believe through the Holy Spirit, God has empowered us to worship Jesus Christ through music, Word and Sacrament; To Teach the gospel through Sunday School, confirmation, Bible Study and Youth Ministry. To share the gospel and reach out through Fellowship, Evangelism and Ministry to all in need.

## JOIN US for Worship, Fellowship & Sunday School each week!

- \* Worship begins @ 9 am \* Fellowship @ 10 am
- \* Sunday School @ 10 am (September - May)

## Welcome to Worship

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## INTRODUCTION

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### ELW #246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding *verse 1*

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!"

# CHILDREN'S SERMON

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, O Lord our God ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed by God forever. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(Congregation, please stand)*

***\*\*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.***

Blessed by the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✠ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

**ELW #260** The King Shall Come

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW #266 All Earth is Hopeful

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*(Congregation, please be seated)*

FIRST READING

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> 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 forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; 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 any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."  
(Psalm 122:1)*

Psalm 122

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup> **Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup> **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup> For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

*(Psalm continued on page 5)*

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:** “May they prosper who love you.

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good.”

## SECOND READING

Romans 13: 11-14

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*(Congregation, please stand)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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## GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup> “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Congregation, please be seated)*

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW #241** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

*(Congregation, please stand)*

### THE NICENE CREED

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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**

*(continued on page 7)*

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

*Petitions end “God of Grace” Congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”*

## SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(Congregation, please be seated)*

## OFFERING

*(Congregation, please stand)*

## OFFERTORY **ACS #905** We Are Waiting for Jesus *(verse 2)*

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, gently guide us.

We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

## THE 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.**

## BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

**ELW #244** Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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