

First Sunday in Advent

Hope

November 27 & 28, 2021

As We Gather

Advent is a season for us to grow in hope. We gather amid a world that in many ways seems hopeless. Extremists on both ends of the political spectrum seem to control almost everything we hear, read, and see. Deep divisions over race, politics, and economics loom over us like a dark storm cloud. How can the Church possibly make a difference in all of this? Today's Readings acknowledge the distress and fear that the world's foundations are being shaken. And right in the middle of it all, there is hope. Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Luke 21:33). The prophet Jeremiah declares God's promise to restore His people and all creation. If we were left to ourselves, there would be little room for such hope. But God does not leave us alone. By His Word and Sacraments, God establishes our hearts and prepares us for Jesus' coming final restoration. Until that day, we wait, we pray, we hope.

Preparation

Hymn

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350

- 1 *Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.*
- 2 *Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!*

- 3 *My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.*
- 4 *Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.*

Text: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Jeremiah 33:14–15; Luke 21:27, 33, adapt.

- P** The LORD says, "I will fulfill the promise I made to the houses of Israel and Judah."
C We thank You, O Lord!
- P** The LORD says, "My righteous Branch will cause justice and righteousness to spring up."
C We adore You, O Lord!
- P** The LORD says, "You will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."
C We praise You, O Lord!
- P** The LORD says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."
C We worship You, O Lord!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One Advent candle is lit.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

(Saturday) **Baptism**

Charlee Ella-Rose Biermann

LSB 268

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 25:6–7

P Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

P We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.

C Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Word

Introit

Psalm 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

P Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

C Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?

P Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.

C Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,

P who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted.

C For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

Kyrie

LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection

C we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins

P and saved by Your mighty deliverance;

C for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14–16

¹⁴Behold, the days are coming, declares 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 dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

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

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C righteous and having salvation.

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

⁹What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what 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, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Psalm 24:7

P Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Alleluia! Alleluia!

P Lift up your heads, O gates!

C And be lifted up, O ancient doors,

P that the King of glory may come in.

C Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁵[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331

1 *The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.*

2 *The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.*

3 *O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.*

4 *As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.*

5 *Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.*

△ 6 *All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.*

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,**

begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

P O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to yearn for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in justice and righteousness, and all creation will be restored. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially...*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists

searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Offering

Hymn

Create in Me

LSB 956

*1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.*

Text: Public domain

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Benediction

1 Thessalonians 3:12–13; Numbers 6:24–26

P May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, . . . so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336

- 1 *Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.*
- 2 *Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.*
- 3 *Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!*
- 4 *Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Prayers

Continuing Prayer Concerns

Elijah Rabacchi	Debra Guebert	Don Ritter	Ali Gerlach	Alice Knop	Sam Huffman
Jane Kuhnert	Donnie Buch	Vicki (Biermann) Hodge		Patricia Ford (Larry Grab's sister)	
Genna Biermann (Connie Kirkland's sister-in-law)		Scot Alms		Andy Schorr (Carol Mayer's brother)	
	Bruce Heck			Laverne Hutchison	

Care Center Residents

Delores Doss	Mary Lou Goetting	Norma Wolters	Eileen Clements	Wayne Mueller
Jean Schroeder	Frances Kipp	Leonard & Darlene Dierks	Ruth Koch	Delbert & Carolyn Koen
		Herman & Darlene Mayer		

Military Personnel & Their Families

Please help us keep this list updated, if you know of any changes in status call the church office 965-3192.

Justin Asbury	Casey Vallett	Matt Kraus	Bill Ingles	Tim Eichenseer	Justin Parker
Andrew Grab	Cory Jeffers	Denny Ernsting	Kevin Kahre	John Magelitz	Karley Kothe
Dylan McCoy	Drew Gerlach	Jaron Berner	Rodney Anderson	Chasten Lindenberg	Braden Eichenseer
Richard Thompson	Zach Mogavero			Dustin Newton	Adrienne Vallett

Mission Prayer

Give thanks as you pray:

- Thank God that He is the God who saves. Pray that all might fear, love and trust in Him alone.
- Thank God that His name is trustworthy. Call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

Bible Readings

From Lutheran Service Book Daily Lectionary, pp. 299-304

Sunday, 11/28	Isaiah 2:1-22; 1 Peter 1:13-25
Monday, 11/29	Isaiah 5:1-25; 1 Peter 2:1-12
Tuesday, 11/30	Isaiah 6:1-7:9; 1 Peter 2:13-25
Wednesday, 12/1	Isaiah 7:10-8:8; 1 Peter 3:1-22
Thursday, 12/2	Isaiah 8:9-9:7; 1 Peter 4:1-19
Friday, 12/3	Isaiah 9:8-10:11; 1 Peter 5:1-14
Saturday, 12/4	Isaiah 10:12-27a, 33-34; 2 Peter 1:1-21

Worship Service Schedule

Saturday @ 6:00 p.m. & Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Class @ 9:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday school @ 9:50 a.m. in the Church Meeting Room

Adult Choir Practice @ 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

Handicapped Accessible Service—December 9th @ 10:00 a.m.

****A video recording of the service will be posted on Facebook and YouTube. ****

Mid-Week Advent Service—Wednesdays (beginning 12/1) @ 7:00 p.m.

Grief Share—Surviving the Holidays, December 7 @ 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study—Restarting on January 12th @ 10:00 a.m.

Help Needed—Christmas Decorating Committee

The Christmas Decorating Committee will begin decorating the church at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 28th. All help is welcomed and encouraged, the more, the merrier.

New! 2022 Weekly Envelopes

As of January 1, 2022, you will not receive, or need to pick up, a box of envelopes. The mailman will be delivering your envelopes directly to your home for each quarter. Your giving envelope packets for January - March 2022 should arrive around the middle of December.



Your name/names will be on each envelope, the weekly date, and the assigned 2022 identifying number (for our posting). Do not use your old envelope number after December 31, 2021. Envelopes for Special Holiday Services, Lenten, Advent, District/Synod, and Building Fund will be included in your quarterly packet.

Please use your envelopes as much as possible. It makes it easier to track your gifts for financial accounting. Also, each packet will include a brief note, event ad, or letter from St. Mark's Church or School. It is an opportunity for your Church to keep in touch with you with a reminder of special events or needs and save a little postage.

Questions? Contact Ruth Waeltz (618) 317-2678 or the church office (618) 965-3192.

Keeping the Faith, One Verse at a Time

Kindness....Goodness....

"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." ~Titus 3:4-5

"Out of the goodness of one's heart"

Defined by Google as...

1. motivated by kindness and generosity rather than the hope of personal gain.

Rather than the hope of personal gain....

Think about that for a moment...kindness and goodness without the expectation of getting something in return. Now that is something to be Thankful for!

But really, who does that anymore?

Our society loves instant gratification, and so always expects to get something (and not just a "thank you" either) for anything, big or small, that they (we) do.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, be the extension of God's hands and feet when no one else sees!

Heavenly Father help us show your goodness and kindness in everything we do. We are so very thankful for the goodness and kindness you have shown to us! Amen

Thank You!!

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, inquiries, and prayers while I have dealt with my hip replacement. It is a blessing to know that I have a church family as well as my personal family who cares.

To God Give the Glory ~ Erna May Salger

Advent Preservice Meals

The Board of Missions will be providing a meal before the Advent services December 1, 8, & 15 in Fellowship Hall from 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. The meals will consist of a variety of fresh hot pizzas and salad. Come for a meal out and fellowship prior to the service.

Wish List

Items on this list are above and beyond what the budget allows for.

- **Church Ceiling Repair & Painting**—The bid we have received is over \$100,000 to sandblast the ceiling and repaint the church.
- **Building & Maintenance Savings**—Our Building & Maintenance Savings account is getting low and needs to be replenished to allow the Board of Trustees to keep our church and school running safely and efficiently.

It's Angel Tree Time!

Our Angel Tree project is under way and the ornaments are available for you to choose from. Each ornament has a wish list for each “Angel”. The deadline to turn in all gifts with their tag attached is December 3rd.

When you pick an ornament from the tree, please note that you must register the ornaments by writing your name and phone number beside the corresponding number on your ornament, on the register sheets. Before you leave, be sure to take an instruction sheet with you so you'll have all the information you need at home to help you through this project. And THANKS for participating!

Angel Tree Fundraiser

Join us at the Steeleville American Legion on December 4th, 7:00—11:00 p.m. and support the Angel Tree. Lewis Creek will be playing, and drink specials will be available. The price of admission is: Blankets, Pillows, Sheets, Pajamas (NB-18 yr. old), or a free will cash donation. Also available for purchase: Pulled Pork Nachos, Pulled Pork Sandwiches and chips.

Youth Group Scrip Orders

The deadline for the next order is December 10th in order to receive them by Christmas. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 965-3192.

Scrip is a program where you are able to buy gift cards for your own personal shopping and/or for your loved ones and the Youth Group receives a percentage back from each card you order. Order forms (lime green paper) are located in this week's bulletin and at each entrance to the church and can be dropped with payment in the offering basket or at the church office at any time. Once the order is placed, we will have the gift cards within two weeks.

St. Mark's School Notes

Mrs. Dawn Uchtman will lead chapel on Wednesday, December 1. Weather permitting chapel will be at the church.

Do not forget that picture day is Tuesday, November 30! No forms are necessary! If your PreK child does not attend on Tuesdays, please bring them at 8:30 am to have their picture taken. Iconik is the new company this year and we are excited to be working with them!

St. Mark's Youth Group will be hosting Santa's Kottage at school on Thursday, December 2, and Friday, December 3 for students to have a chance to Christmas shop! Envelopes will be sent home with your child on Monday, November 29 for parents to fill out who your child is buying for and how much they are to spend. There will be volunteers to assist them, and the gifts are wrapped. This is a fundraiser for the Youth Group!

There will be 11:15 am early dismissal on Friday, December 3. There will be no after dismissal bus or latchkey available.

Mark your calendar now to enjoy the PreK 3 & PreK 4 Christmas program joined by the 7th and 8th graders on Saturday, December 11 at the 6:00 pm service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

St. Mark's Kindergarten through 6th grade will be presenting their Christmas program entitled, "*The Old, Old Story*", on Saturday, December 18 at 6:00 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Mrs. Ann Luedders has been busy helping the classes practice already! Come celebrate the Reason of the Season with us!

St. Mark's Coop Sports

Mon., Nov 29 – B BB vs St. Mary's, Chester – 5:30 pm (C,B,A)

Thurs., Dec 2 – B BB @ RBL – 6 pm – (C,B,A)

Fri., Dec 3 – B BB @ RBC "C" Tournament vs Prairie du Rocher - 6pm

Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School

Club Basketball Game: Tomorrow, Nov. 29, the Soldiers will be playing at First Baptist Academy, O'Fallon at 6:00 p.m.

Plan to Give a Priceless Gift: We will be hosting our fall blood drive this Wednesday, Dec. 1, from 2:00-6:00pm. You can sign up for an appointment now by using the Red Cross website or the Red Cross blood donor app.

#GivingTuesday: If you make a gift to *COS* through Facebook using the #GivingTuesday donation link on November 30, Meta will match the donation starting at 7:00 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis until \$8 million in eligible donations are made on Facebook. Meta will cover the processing fees so 100% of your donation will go to support *COS*. Of course, you may make a gift at any time by mailing a check or by using the link on our website www.coslhs.org.

School Visitors: To comply with new regulations, visitors are asked to contact the school to make an appointment for a visit or for deliveries. Face coverings are required for entry into the school. We are asking for your patience, prayers and understanding as we strive to do our very best to protect our students, faculty, staff, and you. The office is open Monday – Friday 8:00 am-4:00 pm.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, through worship, education, outreach, fellowship, and service.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays @ 6:00 p.m.
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.
Accessible Service @ 10:00 a.m. on 2nd Thursdays

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is celebrated every weekend, the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month at the 9:00 a.m. service and at the 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening service.

ST. MARK'S IS A MEMBER CONGREGATION & SCHOOL OF



and we strive for a balanced Law/Gospel practice of same.