



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

FIRST SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR

November 29, 2020

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AS WE GATHER

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We begin a new Church Year boldly begging for the advent of our risen Lord Jesus, His final coming to rescue and save us. Our boldness, however, is tempered with the humility of faith that says, “Nevertheless, Thy will be done.” For we know and even expect that His answer to our prayer will be hidden in mystery. It may be the mystery of our continued cry for mercy or the surprise of His final advent as victorious Lord and Judge of all. We know what followed our Lord’s humble entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week of His passion, namely, the mystery and surprise that His victory and the glory of God should be displayed for all the world on a cross. So today we pray with bold humility and confidence, for His coming and deliverance will always have a note of surprise—blessed surprise.

WELCOME

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.**

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INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:8; John 3:16; Matthew 5:16*

P: As we begin a new Church Year, let us put behind us everything in the past that would disqualify us from a new life, and remembering our Baptism, we boldly petition our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking for our entry into His presence and His plan and future for us, saying, stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

C: **that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.**

P: What are those threatening perils? I now ask you before God, who searches the heart, do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

C: **I do confess.**

P: So you should confess as Holy Scripture says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Do you also repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

C: **I do repent.**

P: So you should repent as did King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others. Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

C: **I do believe.**

P: So you should believe as Holy Scripture declares, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

C: **I do promise.**

P: So you should promise for Christ the Lord says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

C: **I do believe.**

P: As you believe, even so may it be to you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

C: **that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: **and illumine Your Church.**

HYMN “We Light the Advent Candle” Tune only: LSB 343

**We light the Advent candle And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior Who wins for us God’s favor.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

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SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. By Your own great power, O Lord, we pray that You come to us to protect us by Your might from all evil, and deliver and save us from our sins; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 64:1–9* (Rend the heavens and come down)

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:3–9* (Thanksgiving)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 11:1–10* (The triumphal entry)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

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

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus^[a] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*LSB* 341, verses 1-4

- 1 **Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.**
- 2 **A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.**
- 3 **How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.**
- 4 **Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!**

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SERMON “Rending the Heavens” Chaplain Mike Sneath

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING and CONNECTION CARDS

OFFERTORY “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *LSB* 341, verse 5

**5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.**
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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, our Father, we give You thanks that You bring us once again into a new Church Year whereby we confess and proclaim Your great love for the world in the sending of Your only-begotten Son as the Child of the Virgin Mary, the Lamb proclaimed by John the Baptist, the teacher of the holy apostles, the sacrifice for the sins of the world on the cross, and the risen Savior of all, who will come again in glory on the Last Day. Lord, keep us in this confession and faith, and bless its proclamation throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Supply Your whole Church on earth with faithful pastors and laborers who will continually feed and lead Your people, rightly proclaiming Your Word, administering Your Holy Sacraments, and caring for all in their charge. Guard and bless Your servant Matthew, our Synod President, and Roger, our District President. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: That we may live in peace and safety, we ask You to continually bless those in the authority of government, the President and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Grant that they rule according to Your good pleasure by Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Comfort, O Lord, all who are in trouble, danger, or illness, [*especially . . .*]. Grant healing, peace, and courage for all bearing their crosses to Your praise and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Individual petitions may be added here.

P: As Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, came down to us at Christmas and now comes to us by Your Spirit in Your Word, we pray for His final coming to deliver us all in the great day of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

BENEDICTION

P: 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.

Numbers 6:24–26

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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POSTLUDE

Organ – Kris Vocal – Mathilda

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Flowers given today, in honor of Johnalee Gray. Happy Birthday, Johnalee!