

PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD
**PREPARE THE WAY WITH
SINCERE REPENTANCE**





Beautiful Savior

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving all people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word.

⌘ **Restrooms** are located in the hallway directly opposite the entrance to the sanctuary.

⌘ **Cry-room.** If you have a young child or nursing infant and are in need of a cry-room, you will find it to the right as soon as you exit the sanctuary. A speaker there allows you to hear the service.

⌘ **Staffed nursery.** We offer a staffed nursery for ages 2 to 5 and special needs children. It is located to the left of the entry foyer, near the kitchen window.

⌘ **Connection cards** are found inside each worship folder. We ask that before worship or during the offering, you fill those out, front and back. You can return the card either in the offering plate or in the connection card basket you will find at the exit of the church after worship.

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WORSHIP NOTES

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the “coming” of the Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time.



OUR WORSHIP SERIES

This is a busy time of year. There is much to do to prepare for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. However, more important than celebrating Jesus’ first coming is being prepared for his second coming on the Last Day. Christmas is only important because of what it means for us at the end of time. In this worship series, we make the connection between Christ’s first coming as Savior and his second coming as Judge. Our worship follows this pattern.

PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD

First Sunday in Advent *Prepare, for the Lord will come again unexpectedly*

Second Sunday in Advent *Prepare the way with sincere repentance*

Third Sunday in Advent *Prepare the way by proclaiming good news*

Fourth Sunday in Advent *Prepare the way. Immanuel comes!*

OUR THEME FOR TODAY

Prepare the way with sincere repentance. When Jesus came into the world the first time, God raised up John the Baptist to prepare people to meet him. John preached a powerful message of repentance, and it brought about a renewal of life. People ran to Jesus, the bringer of salvation. Jesus is going to come into the world a second time, and we are to prepare the same way – with sincere repentance. For the unrepentant, Christ’s return will mean an eternity of sorrow. But for God’s repentant people, Christ’s return will mean an eternity in his glorious Kingdom.



Order of Service for **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

✘ **The Gathering** ✘

AWAKE, O SLEEPER

Minister: *Refrain*

Congregation: *Refrain*

A-wake, a-wake, a-wake, O sleep-er! A-wake, a-rise, a-rise, pre-pare the way; for he shall come, the Lord of glo-ry, to bring the day that God has made.

M: Lion and calf together shall run; the wolf be the guest of the lamb.
Nations shall seek him, the One who is love. His justice fills the land.

C: *Refrain*

M: Sing with one voice to the glory of God. Live with each other in peace.
Repent and believe for the time is at hand when sinners find release.

C: *Refrain*

M: There in the desert a voice shall cry: "Prepare now the way of the Lord!"
Straighten his path and herald the day when justice is restored.

C: *Refrain*

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Look! Christ is coming with the clouds.

C: Every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.

Revelation 1:7

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Lest that Day surprise us unprepared, let us make confession of our sins, imploring our heavenly Father to have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Silence for personal confession

M: You came to call us from darkness into light: Lord have mercy.



C: Lord have mer - cy.

M: You came to visit your people with peace: Christ have mercy.



C: Christ have mer - cy.

M: You will return and our joy will be full: Lord have mercy.



C: Lord have mer - cy.

M: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



C: A - men.

ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us
and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority,
I forgive all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

The Rite of Holy Baptism may take place here.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: *Final Refrain*

A-wake, a - wake, a-wake, O sleep - er! A-wake, a -
rise, a-rise, pre-pare the way; for he shall come, the Lord of
glo - ry, to bring the day that God has made.
Sleep - er, now a - wake!

✘ **The Word** ✘

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to prepare the way for your only Son.
By his coming give us strength in our conflicts
and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

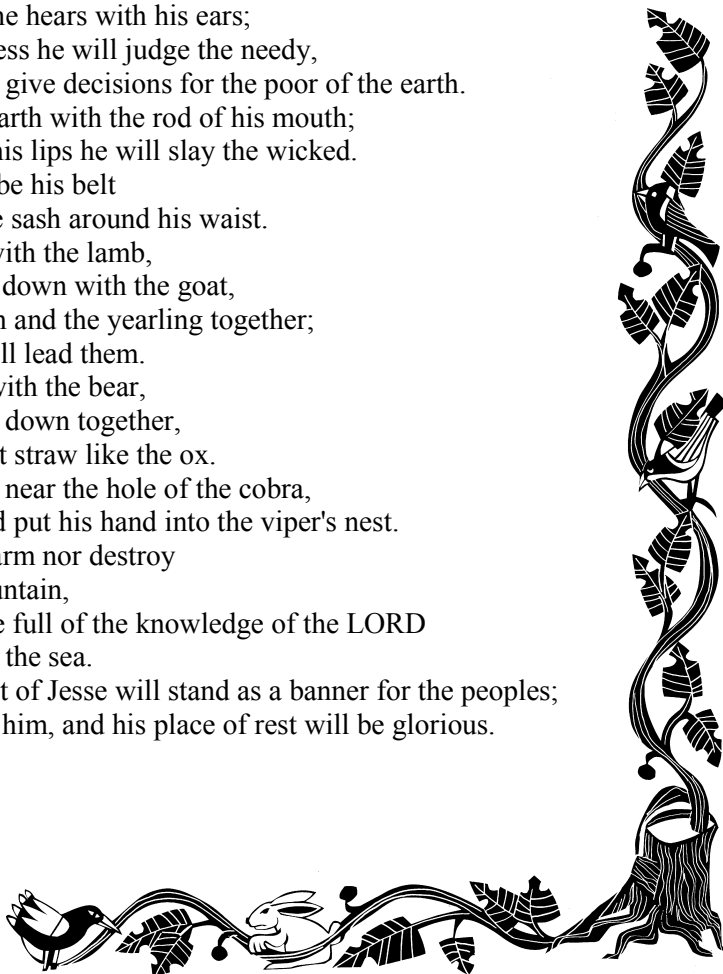
C: **Amen.**



FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

- ¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD -
- ³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
- ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
- ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
- ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.
- ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples;
the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH¹

To introduce the song, the refrain and verse play. At this time, candles are lit. The congregation then sings the refrain, then verses 1 and 2 in order, and then the refrain again. During the final refrain, the children may come forward for the children's message.

Refrain



Two lights for Je - sus Christ:
light the Ad - vent can - dles! Two lights for
day and night, wait - ing for his com - ing.

Verses



1. One to show the King of kings,
2. Two to bring us hope and peace,
1. Lord of earth and heav - en.
2. ra - diant light in dark - ness.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

¹ The Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree has a long history of religious use. No doubt the Advent Wreath was suggested by the Christmas tree. It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath. Eventually the use of the Advent Wreath became widespread and moved also from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 3:19-26

¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. ²¹He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. ²²For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. ²³Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.

²⁴"Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. ²⁵And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed. ²⁶When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

VERSE OF THE DAY

Isaiah 40:3

M: *Refrain*

C: *Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

M: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight paths.
All flesh shall see the salvation, the salvation of God.

C: *Refrain*

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea ²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the desert,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.' "

⁴John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

¹⁰The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN 16

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

THANK OFFERING

✠ The Prayers ✠

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Prayers and petitions are offered on behalf of the Church.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

M: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give ☩ you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN 19

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in
 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your
 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror



you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,
 down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion
 deep - est gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed
 souls dis - tress; Your guilt the Lord will par - don
 to his foes, A light of con - so - la - tions,



My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your
 Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all
 And trem - ble at your doom. De - spair not; he is
 And cov - er by his grace. He comes, for you pro -
 And bless - ed hope to those Who love the Lord's ap -



Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me
 tell - ing That led you to em - brace In love, all
 near you, He's stand - ing at the door Who best can
 cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n, His chil - dren
 pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come, Send forth your



how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.
 love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!
 help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.
 thus se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.
 beams most cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

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