

December 11th, 2022
3rd Sunday in Advent



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. To allow for social distancing, please don't linger in front of the kitchen and bathroom.

HOLY COMMUNION

Our worship service is open to all. The forgiveness received in the Lord's Supper is proclaimed to all throughout the service. However, the Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is to be received by those who have been instructed about its meaning and the unity it expresses.

*For this reason, we ask that guests speak with the Pastor
before partaking of the Holy Supper.*

So that you can be sure that unity of faith and teaching exists we invite you to participate in a Bible Information Course. This class will prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper with us. Please contact Pastor about class times.

COME, LORD JESUS!

The Latin word adventus means "coming." The last words in Scripture are "Come, Lord Jesus!" Thus, the season of Advent begins with the end in mind. We enter a new Church Year with our eyes fixed on the End—capital "E"—when Jesus Christ will come and destroy this sin-broken world.

If that is what Jesus and his angels are coming to do—destroy the universe with fire (2 Peter 3)—why would we cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus"? Because we know that Jesus has come into our world once before. The Son of God became the Son of Man. From the manger to the cross, Jesus did everything necessary to redeem mankind. As this new Church Year walks us through the entire life of Christ, we see God's promises of deliverance fulfilled... God's plan of salvation completed. And so, when Christ comes again, while the universe will be destroyed, we know God's people will be ushered into a new, glorious, everlasting kingdom.

Advent is necessary to prepare us for Christmas. It enables us to understand the true significance of Christmas. For Advent allows us to see that because of what Christ did when he came the first time, believers need not fear when he comes again. Instead, we yearn for it. Come, Lord Jesus!

COME, LORD JESUS! - AS MESSIAH

Humanity wants a made-to-order Messiah. We want the Savior we want. The Jews wanted a political Messiah who would remove Roman oppression and reestablish the kingdom of Israel. The generic Christian of today wants a Messiah who is a good teacher and an inspiration for brotherly love.

Even faithful Christians face the temptation of a made-to-order Messiah. We want a Messiah who isn't bothered by the sin that keeps cropping up in our life, who doesn't call for total dedication but is fine if we only want a relaxed association with him. We want a Messiah who dispenses blessings liberally, to ensure that our life is blessed, as we would like to define it.

That is not the Messiah who came. Jesus defies the expectations of Israel, the world, and us. Jesus reminds us that "blessed" is a term that he defines, and it begins with not rejecting the Messiah because he fails to meet our expectations. One proof that Jesus is the Messiah is that he fulfilled every prophecy. Therefore, blessed people respond to adverse circumstances with patient waiting and confidence that, at just the right time, their Messiah will fix all that is broken in their lives.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, written in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is a simple, melodic line with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "The Glo - ry of the Lord's sal - va - tion, Whose birth stirred heav'n - ly choirs to song, Still shines up - on our gen - er - a - tion As days grow short and times grow long. Then be pre - pared, O Chris - ten - dom, To greet the King when he shall come." The score ends with a double bar line.

The Glo - ry of the Lord's sal - va - tion, Whose birth
stirred heav'n - ly choirs to song, Still shines up - on our gen - er -
a - tion As days grow short and times grow long. Then be pre -
pared, O Chris - ten - dom, To greet the King when he shall come.

M: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come. (*Revelation 1:4*)
C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: The kingdom of heaven is near; therefore, let us repent of our sins.

C: **Merciful Father, forgive us for becoming too attached to this world. We repent of the many times we have allowed its vain pursuits and short-lived pleasures to lure us away from your Word. Guide our feet on the path of your Truth, and keep our eyes of faith focused on the skies, always prepared for Christ's return.**

M: Our heavenly Father is merciful and has sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for your sin. He promises to walk beside you all the length of your days, protecting you from the evil one. Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: You are the light of the world.

C: **A city on a hill cannot be hidden.**

M: Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.

C: **Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.**

M: In the same way, let your light shine before men,

C: **that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.** (*Matthew 5:14-16*)

Send forth the rays of your per - fec - tion, O ho -
ly God en-throned in light, That we, though still a poor re -
flec - tion, May shine your grace in realms of night. Be not a -
fraid, O Chris - ten - dom; The dark - ness shall be o - ver - come.

M: For you were once darkness,
C: **but now you are light in the Lord.**

M: Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)
C: **and find out what pleases the Lord.** (*Ephesians 5:8,9*)

M: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,
C: **in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.** (*Colossians 1:13,14*)

M: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts
C: **to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**
(*2 Corinthians 4:6*)

Let ev - 'ry tongue and race and na - tion Join in
the songs the an - gels raise Of glo - ry, hon - or, a - dor -
a - tion Till heav - en ech - oes with the praise. Sing al - le -
lu - ia! Sing a - men! The King of kings shall come a - gain!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35

The prophet foretold that the coming of the Messiah would change everything.

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸ And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹ No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰ and the ransomed of the LORD will return.

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

PSALM: PRAISE THE LORD! SING HALLELUJAH

146C (page 792)

SECOND READING

JAMES 5:7-11

Knowing what we do about the Messiah's coming kingdom, we want it now. God's encouragement, however, is for us to be patient.

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:2-11

Jesus deals gently with those whose present circumstances lead them to doubt that he is the Messiah.

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'"

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

SERMON

JAMES 5:7-11

We Are Waiting for the Lord

The service continues on page 162.

Reception of New Members (in place of the Prayer of the Church)

Lee and Michele Kraus

Joseph, Kristy, and Jacob Bands

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

The service continues on page 170.