

December 4th, 2022
Second 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
513.677.9357 abidingword.com

Pastor -Troy Jacobs 937.503.3333 welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com

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) Please join us for a potluck after the service. To allow for social distancing, please don't linger in front of the kitchen and bathroom.

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 JUDGE

When Jesus comes back as judge, everyone will face a binary outcome. Either they will be judged righteous and experience the peace and joys of Paradise. Or they will be judged wicked and suffer unquenchable fire (Matthew 3). John the Baptist’s job was to point to the only way to prepare for a judgment, one where the stakes are that high. Repent! And look to the Lord Jesus. For when Jesus came into our world the first time, it was not as judge, but as Savior. All those whose faith is in Christ have already been judged righteous. Please, take these words to heart: the reign of God draws near, and his judgment is inevitable. As John the Baptist once said, “All people will see God’s salvation.” The only question is if one sees Christ’s second coming with joy or regret. For those who fail to repent, the coming of the Judge brings certain doom. But his people will see that Judge like a banner on the hilltop, rallying us to his glorious side.

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: 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)**

M: There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.
C: **He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.**

M: He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. (John 1:6-8)
C: **Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.**

M: And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah,
C: **to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children**

M: and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous
C: **—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. (Luke 1:16,17)**

As we a - wait the Con - so - la - tion, A dis -
tant voice that goes be - fore To preach re - pent - ance, pre - par -
a - tion, The sin - ners' hearts to God re - store. Re - joice and
sing, O Chris - ten - dom! One great - er still is yet to come!

M: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
C: **because he has come and has redeemed his people.**

M: And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
C: **for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,**

M: to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,
C: **because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven**

M: to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death,
C: **to guide our feet into the path of peace. (Luke 1:68,76-79)**

M: To him who is able to keep you from falling
C: **and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—**

M: to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority,
C: **through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Jude 1:24,25)**

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: 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.



FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

From the family tree of Jesse, father of King David, another King would come to judge the world with righteousness and establish an everlasting kingdom.

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

³and 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;

⁴but 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.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The 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.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

PSALM: BY GRACE ALONE

<i>130C</i>

**1 Out of the depths I cry to you,
Lord, hear my voice of pleading;
Bend down your gracious ear, I pray,
Your humble servant heeding.
If you remember each misdeed,
And of each thought and word take heed,
Who can remain before you?**

**2 Your pardon is a gift of love,
Your grace alone must save us;
Our works will not remove our guilt,
The strictest life would fail us.
Let none in deeds or merits boast,
But let us own the Holy Ghost
For he alone can change us.**

**3 Though great our sins and sore our woes,
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our utmost need it soundeth;
Our kind and faithful Shepherd he,
Who will set all his people free
From all their sin and sorrow.**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 15:4-13

God's people face the coming judgment not with fear but with hope because God has raised up the Root of Jesse as our Savior.

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name.”

¹⁰Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

Stand

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:1-12

To prepare us for the coming judgment, God sent John the Baptist, a voice in the wilderness, calling all to repent.

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

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘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 comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and 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!

**Bountiful Blessings Through the Christ-Child
Endurance, Encouragement, Unity, Acceptance, Hope, Joy, and Peace**

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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord God, the Father of all light and wisdom, you are righteous in all your ways and true in all your judgments. We give thanks for your Word and most especially for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask your blessing on all who preach, teach, read and study your Word, that all people may hear its joyful sound and glorify your holy Name.

O God, fill us with all joy and peace through faith in you, that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Help us that we may serve you with pure hearts, worship you with clean hands, obey you with willing minds, fear and love you above all things, and trust you with perfect confidence.

To this end, guard and preserve us that the devil, the world, and our own flesh may not deceive us, nor lead us into error, unbelief and sin. Keep us steadfast in faith and love that we may obtain that inheritance which has been offered to all and promised to us for the sake of your Son.

We pray your blessing on our homes and families. Rule in the hearts of parents and children. Give strength and healing to the sick; give comfort to those who sorrow; give guidance to our youth; give joy and hope to the aged; give courage to the perplexed.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Finally, lead all of us to look now and always to Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who in his second Advent will receive us and all believers to himself and to you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit. In his holy name we pray these things. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

Stand

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.

