

December 3, 2023  
1<sup>st</sup> 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) Please join us for coffee after the service. The Sunday School will practice at 10:45 in the sanctuary and Bible Study is at 11:00 in the fellowship hall.

**THE KING SHALL COME: HE IS COMING TO SAVE US**

The Church Year begins with the season of Advent, which means “coming.” When someone is coming over, what do you do? It depends on who is coming and why they are coming. If it’s a good friend popping in for a quick visit, you don’t worry too much about how the house looks or serving a meal. But imagine the governor is coming over for an evening to give you some sort of citizen’s award. That’s a big deal. There is work to be done: deep cleaning, planning a menu, getting the yard looking its best, etc.

So, is Advent a big deal? It depends on who is coming and why they are coming. In this worship series, we get the answer to those questions. We see that the King shall come. We see why the King came on that first Christmas and why he shall come again on judgment day. In this season, we also cherish the way our King comes to us today in Word and sacrament, establishing his reign in our hearts.

Rulers plan and administrate and govern. They typically do not save. If your house is on fire, it will not be the mayor who shows up to save you from the flames. If America were attacked, the President would serve as the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President would not pick up a weapon, go to the front lines, and fight to save you from the enemy.

Jesus is different. He is both infinitely greater than all other rulers, yet also infinitely humbler. He does not consider it beneath his rank as King to risk his life for his subjects. He is willing to fight for us. He is willing to die for us. For King Jesus came into our world for one reason—to save us.

*Stand*

- M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

- M: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.  
C: **We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.**
- M: We hear his call to watch.  
C: **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**
- M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.  
C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

- M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.  
C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.  
C: **Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

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



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

*Be seated*

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 64:1-9

.<sup>1</sup>Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would tremble before you!  
<sup>2</sup>As when fire sets twigs ablaze  
and causes water to boil,  
come down to make your name known to your enemies  
and cause the nations to quake before you!  
<sup>3</sup>For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,  
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.  
<sup>4</sup>Since ancient times no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup>You come to the help of those who gladly do right,  
who remember your ways.  
But when we continued to sin against them,  
you were angry.  
How then can we be saved?  
<sup>6</sup>All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.  
<sup>7</sup>No one calls on your name  
or strives to lay hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have given us over to our sins.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet you, LORD, are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;  
do not remember our sins forever.  
Oh, look on us, we pray,  
for we are all your people.

## SECOND READING

## 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup>For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— <sup>6</sup>God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. <sup>7</sup>Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup>He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

*Stand*

## GOSPEL

## MARK 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup>As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup>If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

<sup>4</sup>They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, <sup>5</sup>some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” <sup>6</sup>They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. <sup>7</sup>When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated*

**SERMON**

**ISAIAH 64:1-9**

*Stand*

**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**

**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.**

*Be seated*

*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.



C: A - men.

### **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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Be seated*