

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, November 29, 2020

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN #134 “O Bride Of Christ, Rejoice”

O bride of Christ, rejoice! Exultant raise your voice
To hail the day of glory Foretold in sacred story.
Hosanna! Now adore him; With praises bow before him!

He wears no kingly crown, Yet as a King is known;
Though not arrayed in splendor, He shall make death surrender.
Hosanna! Now adore him; With praises bow before him!

The weak and timid find How meek he is and kind;
He graciously will hear you And be forever near you.
Hosanna! Now adore him; With praises bow before him!

E'en babes with one accord With you shall praise the Lord
And ev'ry gentile nation Respond with exultation:
Hosanna! Now adore him; With praises bow before him!

Then go your Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at his feet;
Your garments spread before him, And honor and adore him.
Hosanna! Sing the story Of Christ, the King of glory.

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.**

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. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M:** Let us pray. 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:** **Amen.**

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 23:5-8: “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. “So then, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when people will no longer say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ but they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ Then they will live in their own land.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY - Psalm 24

Refrain: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,* the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas* and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?* Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,* he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?* The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?* The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,* is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:11-14: And do this, [that is, show love], understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

M: The Word of the Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

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

C: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:1-9: As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that

followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

BE SEATED

HYMN #2 “Savior of the Nations, Come”

Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned, Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

From the Father's throne he came And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell—High the song of triumph swell!

Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

SERMON

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

C: **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.** *(Please remain standing)*

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

(We will not pass a plate but one will be available on the table as you leave church.)

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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

HYMN #3 “Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”

Lift up your heads, you 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 will bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

The King is born in poverty, 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.

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.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven'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!

Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!
Oh, enter with your saving grace; Show me your kind and friendly face.
Your Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to your name.

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: **Amen.**

M: 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. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN #18 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, My Hope, my heart's Delight.
O Jesus, let your word be A lamp to light my way,
To show me how to please you, To guide me ev'ry day.

Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling That led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed And tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, He's standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing A heritage in heav'n.

He comes to judge the nations, A terror to his foes,
A light of consolations, And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams most cheering, And guide us safely home.

Call: Last Sunday the voters extended a divine call to Pastor Andrew Luehring to serve as pastor here at Christ. He currently serves at St. John Lutheran Church in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. We pray that God blesses his deliberations.

Vacancy: Pastor Johann Caauwe from Wood Lake is serving as our vacancy pastor. If you need to contact him please call 507-828-5136 or email him at pastor@stjohnswoodlake.com.

Advent: Today we enter a new church year with the beginning of Advent. We will have two midweek Advent services this year on Wednesday, December 9th and December 23rd. Sign-ups for those will be available soon on our website.

Thank You: We thank those who volunteered to put up the Christmas decorations – it looks beautiful.

Advent Devotions: MLC has produced a devotional booklet for the Advent season. These free booklets are available on a table in the narthex, one per family. (It is also available online at their website mlc-wels.edu. Under the about tab click publications and then seasonal devotions.) We pray you use it as a family to help prepare your hearts for the arrival of the Christ child.

Snow Removal: We are asking individuals and families to sign up for snow removal at church. Would you be willing to pick a week or two? With pastor gone we need your help! A snow blower and shovels are available for you to use. Please contact our maintenance committee chairman Wes Hoflock to sign up at 829-1612 or whoflock@gmail.com. Thank you!

Budget/Election: This meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 PM at church.

Christmas Eve Children's Service: After much deliberation from the faculty, the board of education, and the church council, it has been decided that we will not hold an in-person Children's Christmas Eve Service. Instead, we will be taping the service on Saturday, December 19 to be aired on our church's Youtube page on Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM.

Women's Bible Study: Tomorrow the ladies Bible study group will begin a new study on Philippians from a book entitled "Joy" by Deb Burma. We meet on Mondays at 2:00 PM in the church basement. We wear masks and practice social distancing. Any woman in our congregation is invited and very welcome to come. If you have questions, please call Ellen Loe at 507-828-2400.

Offering: Just a reminder that we will not be passing the offering plate. You can leave your offering in the plate on the table as you leave church.

Christmas Greenery: The Christmas Greenery is in the parsonage garage. You can let yourself in through the side door. If you need to arrange a different time to pick up your greenery order, please email Mrs. Onken at the church office, lonken@christlutheran-marshallmn.org. Thank you for your order and support.