

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 1, 2024
1st Sunday of Advent

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper..

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

Gathering Litany

We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison,
competition and fear.

**We are waiting for the One
who will turn the world around,
causing us to live in connection and compassion,
mutual support and liberation.**

We live in a world that races for money and success,
that worships busyness and productivity,
that hoards and consumes.

**We are waiting for the One
who will turn the world around
so we will know that there is enough
and that we are enough,
and so we can be still and rest.**

We live in a world that tries to hide from death
by pursuing eternal youth.

**We are waiting for the One
who will turn the world around
and bring new life from places we would call
dead and worthless.**

We live in a world that is broken and hurting.

**We are waiting for the One
who will turn the world around
to heal and comfort all people.**

God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting.
Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
counsel and might,
knowledge and reverent trembling in your presence.

Reveal to us that our stories are woven together,
that we will be healed and whole
when all people are fed and free.
Gather us together in the shelter of your righteousness.
Amen.

Light 1st Candle *The candle for Hope*
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW 257 vs 1

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

Amen.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-17

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

¹To | you, O Lord,

I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness,

O Lord.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)**

pg 142

***Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Jim McColley

Sermon

Pastor Jim McColley

***Hymn**

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW 244 v3-4

***Apostles Creed**

pg 105

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Lord, in your mercy,
Receive our prayer.

***Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

***Offering prayer**

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*** Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy**

pg 144

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

Holy Communion God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Communion Hymns

Christ, Be Our Light
Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW 715
ELW 245

***Prayer After Communion**

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us

as we feed the hungry in your name
Amen.

***Blessing**

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

***Hymn**

Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending

ELW 435 v1-2

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Jim McColley

Assisting: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Lynda Mumm

Ushers: Randy Puls, Vera Hartman Doug Kinseth

Communion Setup: Carole Peters and Mary Kuhlman

Communion: Vera Hartman and Stacy Hendrickson

Tech: Mark Oester