

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of Advent HOPE



WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a “**Pray Ground**” for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs “a break” or “louder play”, there is an “**Active Worship**” room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion

Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning
the way you feel comfortable.

All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!

Everybody Is Somebody Here

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, pay attention! The days are coming when God’s peace will reign and all creation will flourish under the reign of our Creator.

The days are surely coming!

Children of God, prepare your hearts! The days are coming and are already here when God will come near and show us how to recognize God’s reign among us.

The days are surely coming and are already here!

Children of God, be alert and listen! God has come near to build the kin-dom on the earth here and now. Will you join in?

The days are surely coming and are already here! We come to prepare our hearts to pay attention, to listen, and to follow God’s call to build the kin-dom of earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW #715

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The 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” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

SONG OF WAITING

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” vv 1-3

ELW# 283

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let Us Pray God of hope,

C: God of our Expectation, We praise you for surely-coming days when you will bring Shalom: love, peace, health, and well-being for the people who walked in darkness. We await with assurance the surely-coming days when disease is cured, when every gun is beaten into tools for rebuilding, when every child has the opportunity to develop God-given gifts, and when every adult sees every child as a gift from God. We desire, O God of our Hope, surely-coming days when no city fears hurricanes, no country fears destruction, and no tribe fears annihilation by another. We thank you for the surely-coming days when no person fears another because God chose to create all people in the diversity of God’s image. We thank you for our hope and for your surely-coming days. Amen.

All young and young at heart are invited forward during the Children’s time.

CHILDREN’S TIME

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

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: The Word of our Lord C: **Thanks Be to God**

THE WORD

God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching, and song.



GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus taught 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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven 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 catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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."

L: The Good News of our Lord C: Thanks Be to God

MESSAGE

Pastor Brent Erler

HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

ELW #597

SHARING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY OFFERING

Family of Christ Community Fund

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Lord, in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayers

HOLY COMMUNION

THE 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.

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Family of Christ



THE MEAL

God feeds us with the
forgiveness and presence
of Christ.

All are invited to receive
these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to
come forward and receive
communion or a blessing



THE SENDING

We are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's Love with all people.



BLESSING

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SENDING HYMN

“Canticle of the Turning”

ELW #723

POSTLUDE



Come, Let Us Adore Him

The Season of Advent is one of the highlights of the Christian Year. With this season, we launch another cycle of living into the story of Jesus and the church that emerges—of which we are a part. We sometimes think we need to find a new way of telling this story and do something fresh and unique. There is certainly space for that, but tradition and remembering the songs and stories from our beginnings can be a powerful invitation to grow as disciples as we grow closer to Christ.

So, we invite you to join us as we consider the Preparations and the Passion of Advent so that we might embrace the Presence and Promise of the Christ who comes. So, come, let us adore him.

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Serving Today

Pastor

Brent Erler

Musician

Ann Mikiska

Sound and Video

Jeremy Mann

*Thanks to all those who helped make worship possible.

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FamilyofChrist

FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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