



LORD OF LIFE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*HEAVEN AND NATURE SING,  
IN THE GRACE  
OF JESUS CHRIST!*



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
NOVEMBER 28, 2021

**LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**“MAKING GOD FIRST THROUGH HOPE, GROWTH & TOGETHERNESS”**

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.-16200 Dodd Lane, Lakeville, MN 55044-(952)-953-4484  
Pastor Jamie Thompson Email: [info@lordoflifemn.org](mailto:info@lordoflifemn.org) Website: [www.lordoflifemn.org](http://www.lordoflifemn.org)



**“HEAVEN AND NATURE SING IN THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST!”**



**The First Sunday In Advent**

**November 28, 2021**

**Extended Prelude & Words of Greeting**

**Song of Promised Return “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”**

*Helmore*

*(All are invited to join the Worship Leaders in singing each song in our service today!)*

vs. 1 **Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.**

ref: **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to you, O Israel.**

vs. 3 **Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free,  
Your own from Satan’s tyranny;  
From depths of hell your people save,  
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. *(refrain)***

vs. 4 **Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer,  
Our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. *(refrain twice)***

**Litany of Hope as We Wait for Christ’s Promised Return – based on Psalm 122**

Pastor: Today we celebrate the hope we have in the arrival and in the promised advent of Emmanuel; heaven and nature sing in The One who comes to us, so we worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: People of God: As we pray and wait for our Lord to break into our world and lives again, let us take a moment of silence to confess our sins and those times we fail to have our hearts prepare room for Jesus’ presence and promised return. *(silence for reflection)* Friends, Jesus who was born in a manger, who died for you, and who will come again, prepares room for you, and your hearts, in the grace of these words: Jesus saves; Jesus forgives you all your sins. We are his new Jerusalem. Heaven and nature sing! Come, Lord Jesus, come, to all who thirst for you!

**Song of Hope & Promise “All Who Are Thirsty”**

*Brown*

**All who are thirsty, all who are weak, come to the fountain.  
Dip your heart in the stream of life. Let the pain and the sorrow  
Be wash’d away in the waves of His mercy  
As deep cries out to deep. We sing:**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Pastor: Friends in Christ: As we wait for Jesus to return, trust the Lord comes to all who are so thirsty, to make all things ready; for each of us to prepare him room, and to make known: The Holy Spirit is here; Jesus will come again!

**Song of Hope & Promise “All Who Are Thirsty”**

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As deep cries out to deep. We sing:**

**Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**All: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Save us from our sins. Increase in us such faith to hear heaven and nature sing, to listen for you alone during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. On this First Sunday in Advent, open our eyes and hearts like the prophets, to see your Kingdom has come, to more boldly believe, to prepare you room, to serve and to give witness to the glory of your promised return. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**Song Lighting the Advent Wreath “Light One Candle”**

*Wold*

vs. 1 **Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
Let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Prophecy Candle**

**The Word of God**

**Old Testament Lesson                      Jeremiah 33:14-16                      (all read bold print)**

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. In 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.** In 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.” (New Revised Standard Version)

## Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

(all read bold print)

*Jesus spoke to his followers, saying, “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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “**Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.** Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **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, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. **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.”* (New Revised Standard Version)

## Stating Our Faith In God – Based on Luke 1:67-79

**Pastor:** Long ago the prophet Zechariah foretold to his son, John the Baptist, heaven and nature would sing and bring hope and promise to all. God is still speaking these words of our Savior, that we might be assured, that we might boldly believe, and tell the story.

**All:** **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

Children’s Message & “Jesus Loves Me”

*Percival & Warner*

Sermon

“Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room!”

Pastor Jamie Thompson

Song of Promise & Hope

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*Prudentius & Davis*

vs.1 **Of the Father’s love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see, Evermore, and evermore.**

- vs.3 **This is he whom seers in old time, Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets, Promised in their faithful word;  
Now he shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord, Evermore and evermore.**
- vs.4 **Let the heights of heav'n adore him; Angel hosts, his praises sing;  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him, And extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore.**

### **Sharing Our Needs and Joys with God in Prayer**

Pastor: ...as we pray to you, Jesus,

**All: We trust heaven and nature sing; as you come to us and bless us with your grace.**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you see we need, grant to us we pray, for into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### **We Receive the Gifts of Life from God in Holy Communion**

#### **The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer**

**All: 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.**

#### **Songs During Holy Communion "The First Noel"**

*Gardner*

- vs.1 **The first Noel the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they, lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night, that was so deep.**
- ref: **Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**
- vs.2 **They looked up and saw a star,  
Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth, it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. (*refrain*)**
- vs.3 **And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king, was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. (*refrain*)**

**“I Wonder As I Wander”**

*Niles*

- vs. 1 **I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die,  
For poor ord’n’ry people like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**
- vs. 2 **When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow’s stall,  
Came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,  
And high from the heavens a star’s light did fall;  
The promise of the ages it then did recall.**
- vs. 3 **If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing.  
Or all of God’s angels in heav’n for to sing,  
He surely could have had it ‘cause he was the King.**
- vs. 4 **I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die,  
For poor ord’n’ry people like you and like I.  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

**Strengthened to Live Today, and All Our Days, In The Grace of Christ**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, this day, and on into life everlasting.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**All: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his, through Jesus Christ, the Lord of life. Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, as we hear heaven and nature sing in God’s grace. In the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us go in the peace of Christ, celebrating the love of God, and serving the Lord of life.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Going Anew Trusting the Promise “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”**

*Laurenti*

- vs. 1 **Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising, And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**

- vs. 3    **The saints, who here in patience, their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever, When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory, The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him, Their diadems of gold.**
- vs. 4    **Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see,  
The day of earth's redemption, That sets your people free!**

## **Postlude**

*Today we share and celebrate **The First Sunday In Advent!**  
**Faith Quest Sunday School does not meet today!***

*Join us this **Wednesday, December 1, 6-7 p.m.**  
**for our unique and energizing drive-through donation event!***

*Join us next **Sunday, December 5,**  
**The Second Sunday In Advent**  
**"Far As The Curse Is Found!"***

***Faith Quest Sunday School meets next Sunday!***

***Our Faith Quest Children's Christmas Program is in two weeks on Sunday, December 12!***

***As we share worship in this way, we are seeking volunteers to assist with greeting, ushering, serving communion, live streaming, AV ministry, set up, clean up, worship leaders, and more!**  
**You can access details and ways to sign up on our website and Facebook page! Thank you!***

***All who proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, are welcome to God's table of grace as we share Holy Communion. Communion is now offered once again during worship, as we share pre-packaged single servings of communion, including a wafer and grape juice.***

***Carefully pull back the first tab to expose the host, the body of Christ, given for you;  
then pull back the second tab to expose the blood of Christ, shed for you!***

***Please ask for assistance or clarification as you are served!***

***For those who are not able to join us for worship, you are invited to receive drive-through communion, available Sundays, 10:15-10:30 a.m. at the front curb near the church entrance.***

***For those sharing their generosity today, we thank you for your faithful giving!***

***Please contact Pastor Jamie if he can serve you in any way: [jamie.thompson@lordoflifemn.org](mailto:jamie.thompson@lordoflifemn.org)***

***We pray The Holy Spirit breathes anew on us to be God's people and to be God's Church,  
as together we make known and we trust anew***

***God's gifts of hope, peace, justice, clarity, calm, and comfort forever break forth in new ways  
for you and your loved ones, today, and as we share every gift of God's light, love, and grace!***

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Litany of Hope As We Wait for Christ's Promised Return, written based on Ps. 122. "Prayer of The Day," "Lord's Prayer," "Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, & Benediction," based on the LBW. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and With One Voice Hymnal Supplement © 1995 Augsburg Publishing House, Mpls & Board of Publication, Lutheran Church In America, Philadelphia; & Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, Mpls, MN. Used w/permission. Words & Music Public Domain: "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" "Of the Father's Love Begotten" "The First Noel" "I Wonder As I Wander" & "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" "All Who Are Thirsty" © 1998 Vineyard Songs, CCLI #2489542 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" © 2002 Birnamwood Publications CCLI # All rights reserved. All songs used w/permission. CCLI License #1380826 & OneLicense #A-724016.

**“LET EVERY HEART, PREPARE HIM ROOM!”**  
**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT – NOVEMBER 28, 2021**  
**JEREMIAH 33:14-16; 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13; LUKE 21:25-36**  
**Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.**

How are you at ‘being ready?’ ‘Getting ready’ is something we do, quite often. We ‘get ready’ for special events, special moments, special people; and we ‘get ready’ for day to day details: meetings, meals, etc. ‘Being ready’ is different than ‘getting ready.’ As Jesus tells us again today, ‘There will be signs ... Know the kingdom of God has come near ... Be on guard, be alert at all times.’ We are to be ready, not ‘quite often;’ ‘at all times,’ ready for the Kingdom of God to come near, for God’s grace to make us ready, ready for Jesus to return, ... today! Advent is a blessed season in The Church Year, making known: ‘Be ready’ for The One who promised he would return, always keeps his promises! As we light The Prophecy Candle, we boldly proclaim the prophecy and promise given long ago were kept, The Messiah came, now we are to ‘be ready,’ to let every heart prepare Him room, to be ready for the new promise to be kept as well, to be ready for heaven and nature to sing, like they did once before, for they will do so again completely, just as God has promised!

1. ‘Let every heart prepare Him room,’ for Jesus is coming back!  
1 Thessalonians 3:11-13; Luke 21:32-36
  - A. Advent is the season to be ready for all God has ready, for heaven and nature to sing completely in Jesus’ return!
  - B. We do not like to wait. We do not even really like getting ready, especially when timing is uncertain.
  - C. We do not mind getting ready for Christmas. We know the timing. We know how we got ready last year, and the year before that, and the year before that.
  - D. Advent is God’s gift to us to ‘be ready,’ for The Kingdom of God to come near, and for Jesus to come again! We do not like to wait, we may not have to; let us be ready, ... today!
  
2. ‘Let every heart prepare Him room,’ to believe, to be comforted, to hold onto real hope; be ready for God to keep his promises! Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-28
  - A. As we light The Prophecy Candle today, we are reminded long ago a prophecy was announced, a promise was given, a promise was kept, The Messiah came!
    - i. How are you at keeping promises?
    - ii. Who was ready to be a prophet for you, to tell you of God’s promises and grace?
    - iii. Are you ready, has your heart prepared Him room, to be a prophet, to tell others Jesus is coming back, to tell others God keeps his every promise!

- B. Be ready today for God to faithfully keep the new promise given; be ready today for The Kingdom of God to come near; let every heart prepare room for Jesus today; for the promise will indeed be kept; Jesus will come back ... maybe today!
3. 'Let every heart prepare Him room,' to be ready, to be on guard, to be alert at all times for God's grace, for heaven and nature to sing! Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:10; Luke 21:29-31, 36
- A. Be ready today; believe God makes things happen every day!
  - B. Be ready today; believe The Kingdom of God has come near!
  - C. Be ready today; believe Jesus is breaking forth every day, believe Jesus is coming back one day as promised!
  - D. Be ready today; believe heaven and nature will sing as they did once before, for they will sing again completely, as promised!