

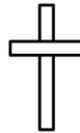
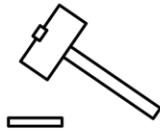


**December 11, 2022**

COME, LORD JESUS! The Latin word adventus means “coming.” The last words in Scripture are “Come, Lord Jesus!” Thus, the season of Advent begins with the end in mind. We entered a new Church Year with our eyes fixed on the End—capital “E”—when Jesus Christ will come and destroy this sin-broken world.

If that is what Jesus and his angels are coming to do—destroy the universe with fire (2 Peter 3)—why would we cry out, “Come, Lord Jesus”? Because we know that Jesus has come into our world once before. The Son of God became the Son of Man. From the manger to the cross, Jesus did everything necessary to redeem mankind. As this new Church Year walks us through the entire life of Christ, we see God’s promises of deliverance fulfilled... God’s plan of salvation completed. And so, when Christ comes again, while the universe will be destroyed, we know God’s people will be ushered into a new, glorious, everlasting kingdom.

Advent is necessary to prepare us for Christmas. It enables us to understand the true significance of Christmas. For Advent allows us to see that because of what Christ did when he came the first time, believers need not fear when he comes again. Instead, we yearn for it. Come, Lord Jesus!



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Come, Lord Jesus!

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hymns – 307 – 302– 305 – 623

**When the King Shall Come Again 307**

CW 307

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Confession**

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

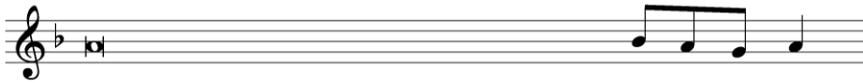
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



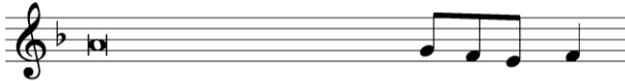
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



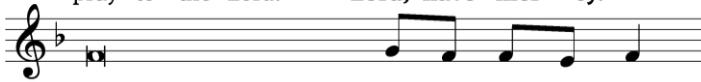
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

Tune: Kevin Becker

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## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 35*

<sup>1</sup>The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup>it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;

<sup>4</sup>say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup>Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness;

it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

<sup>9</sup>No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast;

they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there, <sup>10</sup>and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

James 5:7–11

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup>Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup>Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10



*Refrain*



*Tone*



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## Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

<sup>2</sup>When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

<sup>7</sup>As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

**Prepare the Royal Highway 302**

CW 302 vs 2-4

**Sermon - The Promised Ruler of Israel**

**Micah 5:1-7**

*Stand*

**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.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**C: Plant your Word in our hearts and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially . . .*]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**C: Grant them your love and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [*especially . . .*]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**C: Keep us in the true faith and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**C: Amen.**

**Offering** [*The offering plate is on the table just outside the sanctuary doors; **at this time, it will be brought forward and placed on the altar.** Another plate remains on the table if you wish to provide an offering as you leave.*]

**Please fill out a Connection Card.** *Members of Living Savior support the ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus through their offerings. Guests may choose to give back to the Lord at Living Savior, through their own congregation, or in other ways that reflect a thankful heart. We are glad to share our joy and hope with you.*

## **Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates 305**

CW 305

*Stand*

**Prayer** [*All Together Pray – 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of using this facility*]

**Holy Spirit, the Christian church is your creation. We give thanks to you that you have established and now preserved this congregation for 61 years – the last 5 of which have been in this new facility. All glory be to God on high! We pray that you will fill us with zeal for your Word and work. Bless our efforts to nourish believers through the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins Christ has won for all. Equip us with the eagerness to never stop inviting guests to the banquet of salvation. Cause our congregation to thrive in years to come, dear Lord, for the glory of your name and the salvation of souls.**

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Blessing**

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: Amen.**

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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## News and Notes

- Thanks to everyone who pitched in to decorate the church! Doesn't everything look nice?
- Today, 4pm, at Springhill Suites in Kalispell the North Valley Lutheran mission group will meet for an outreach event called "Cookies and Carols." Thank you to those of you who have supplied cookies for this event!
- We encourage anyone who would like to show their support for our brothers and sisters in faith to make the trip this afternoon and share in the Christmas caroling and readings prepared for the occasion.
- Marguerite Munsche has been moved to Hamilton Assisted Living and Memory Care, 235 Old Corvallis Road, Hamilton. Phone 406-363-5683.
- Next Sunday, December 18, 12 Noon, our Preschool children will present their Christmas Program in the Fellowship Room. If you can assist sometime near the end of the week, please help to set up the room for the occasion. We will forgo the normal Bible Study and have goodies out for those who will be coming as guests to our facility for this program. Please show your support for our Preschool by attending this brief Christmas program. Thanks!
- Some are wondering how long Jean and I will be able to stay in Missoula – we are unsure ourselves. It depends on whether Pastor Mueller accepts the call to be the next pastor; I would possibly try to stay until he would be able to arrive. Otherwise, the contingency plan is to possibly have another vacancy pastor arrive from Custer, SD to continue services to Living Savior and Kalispell. Thank you for making us feel so welcome in your midst!

**December Altar – Lynn Bernthal**

**December Cleaning – April Best, Phil McGuire – Pastor & Jean Persons**

**Attendance Last Week**

December 4 – **33**

**Welcome to Living Savior**

Welcome! We are glad that you have joined us to worship the Savior.

- Restrooms are located to the right as you leave the sanctuary. There are also restrooms in the NW corner of the fellowship hall.
- Please help us be a friendly church by filling out the Connection Card during the service and placing it in the offering plate.
- Would you like to know more about Jesus, the basic teachings of what it means to be a Christian, or the Bible? Please mark the box on the Connection Card or email Pastor Persons for more information.

**Living Savior Contact Information**

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