

**First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021**

Rev. Kelley L. Pedersen, Interim Pastor



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.

(*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

Welcome & Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
**in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
✚ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

***Hymn** "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" #244

***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

***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.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The LORD is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

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."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.)

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 compassion 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 goodness,
O LORD.

**⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

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

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

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

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation -- p. 102**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord**

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵There 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.

³⁴Be 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, 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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" #257 Vs 1-4

***Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities (*local, state, and national government officials may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters (*especially*), for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

***Peace**

May the peace of God be with you all.

And also with you.

Offering and *Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Holy, Holy, Holy** p. 144

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer** p. 145

***Invitation to Communion**

Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion (continuous)

Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Move to the right or left to receive the wine. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.

Those who wish to be served at their seats or use the individual pre-packaged elements at their seats may stand to hear the words for individual distribution.

Distribution Hymns: #593 -Drawn to the Light; #272 – Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

***Prayer after Communion**

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

***Blessing**

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn** "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" #949 ACS

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

Baptized believers sent into God's world to share God's love and grace.

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Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pr. Kelley can be reached at 402-750-9944 (cell).

The Giving Tree is up with names from Community Action Agency and Lutheran Services in Iowa.

- After you select a name tag, please record your name in the notebook next to the tree, in the corresponding number of the name tag.
- The name tag records the name or code letter, age, clothing sizes and gift suggestions.
- The gifts from LSI are not to be wrapped (this should be indicated on the tag).
- Please return gifts to the church by Sunday, December 12.
- Any questions, contact Gloria Healy, 873-5107.

As we transition to shorter bulletins and using the screens, please let Sadie Robbins know if you need a full bulletin going forward.

This Week's Events: Nov 28-Dec 4

Sun. Nov 28	9:00am	First Sunday of Advent
Mon.		Office Closed
Tues.	7:00pm	AA Meeting (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Wed.	10:00am	Adult Bible Study (If another time works better, please share that with Pr. Kelley.)
	3:30-5pm	Kid's Zone (through grade 6)
	6:00-7:15p	Confirmation
Wed.	7:00pm	First Advent Service

Upcoming Events:

Sun. Dec 5	9:00am	Second Sunday of Advent
Wed. Dec 8	7:00	Second Advent Service

Worship Assistants for November:

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Cindy & Gail Ploen
Scripture Reader: Lisa Rippke	Offertory Accountants: Kim Steffen & Denny Bain
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton	
Acolyte: Lexi Gilbert	Crucifer: Natalie Stamm

Worship Assistants for December:

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Roger & Susan Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Roger Christiansen	Offertory Accountants: Steve & Lisa Rippke
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton	
Acolyte:	Crucifer:

Birthdays: 28-Jacob Steffen, Sidney Steffen; 29-Cody Gilbert; 30-Skylar Hannah
1-Samantha Craig, Calan Lloyd; 3-Cade Alfredson, Kellen Alfredson; 4-Caleb Corbin
Anniversaries: 30-Scott & Kari Bappe; 3-Paul & Laura Huth

Prayers

For those battling cancer: Harry Kloewer-hospice; Denise Arpino-treatment; Doug Dahlke-PET scan came back clear; Brad Pautsch (Cindy Ploen's brother)-started his immunizations Michelle Stovie (Harry Kloewer's daughter)-chemo, PET scan at the end of October

We also pray for Norma Thies-meeting with hospice; Talon Penning (Kara Koehn's brother)-**Covid pneumonia, doing better and has returned home**; Carla Boggs; Jon Kleemeier-rehab at home; Barb Kunkel; **Ed Kunkel (Barb's son)-heart and lung issues, hospitalized with Covid**; Drake Malm; Tucker Malm (10-yrs old)-Crohn's, doing well at home while waiting for surgery; Kelly Martin; Paula Roling; Kereen Swanger-recovering from stroke; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

THANK YOU!

- to our November worship assistants!

On Ushers' Table:

- Children's bulletins
 - Lutheran Disaster Response - US Wildfires information, Haiti earthquake relief
 - 2021 Advent Devotional (large and small print available)
 - Seminal sheets for confirmation students
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VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED: The Altar Guild is seeking additional members to help with communion, etc. during the months of June & October. Please reach out to Susan Christiansen (cell: 870-4378) to volunteer or if you have additional questions!

God's Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!

Electronic giving	\$ 142.50
LSI	\$ 1000.00
Giving Tree	\$ 500.00
New Hymnals	\$ 1000.00
Roof Fund	\$ 1000.00
Mission Support	\$ 30.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$1,968.00</u>
Total	\$5,730.50

P.O. Box 239 Merville IA 51039 873-3327

Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church, Merville

Email: tlchurchmerville@gmail.com OR tlchurch@wiatel.net

Website: www.trinitylutheranmerville.org

YouTube: Trinity Lutheran Church, Merville IA

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
 2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual