



December 5, 2021 2nd Sunday of Advent

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high *when the Lord comes near*.



Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR, HE HUMBLER HIS PEOPLE

People tend to feel a lot of pressure this time of year. We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to meet the Lord: only repentance. You see, Jesus is not someone we need to impress with our good works. Indeed, repentance is the opposite of work. Repentance is the humble admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by him.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

P. 38

HYMN

Come, O Precious Ransom, Come

8

1 Come, O pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly Hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail, ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Help, Lord; hear our

sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray you. Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let your king - dom, scep - ter, crown

O - pen are to you all por - tals. Come, your beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay you, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion That for - ev - er

let us view; Anx - ious - ly we wait for you.
 will be mine When you are my guest di - vine!
 will em - brace, Lord, your mer - it through your grace.
 we may sing Hail, ho - san - na! to our King.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. August Crüll, 1845-1923, alt.
 Tune: *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtsches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT
 78 78 77

STAND

- M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
 C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
 C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**
 M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
 C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a few notes followed by a double bar line.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-7b (NIV84)

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. ² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years. ⁵ “So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty. ⁶ “I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

PSALM 66

(p. 90)

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

Shout with joy to God, *á*ll the earth!*

Sing the glory of his name; make his praise *g*lorious!

Praise our God, O *pe*oples,*

let the sound of his praise be heard.

He has *pre*served our lives*

and kept our feet from *s*lipping.

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

Come and listen, all you who fear God;*
let me tell you what he has done for me.

If I had cherished sin in my heart,*
the Lord would not have listened;

but God has surely listened*
and heard my voice in prayer.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

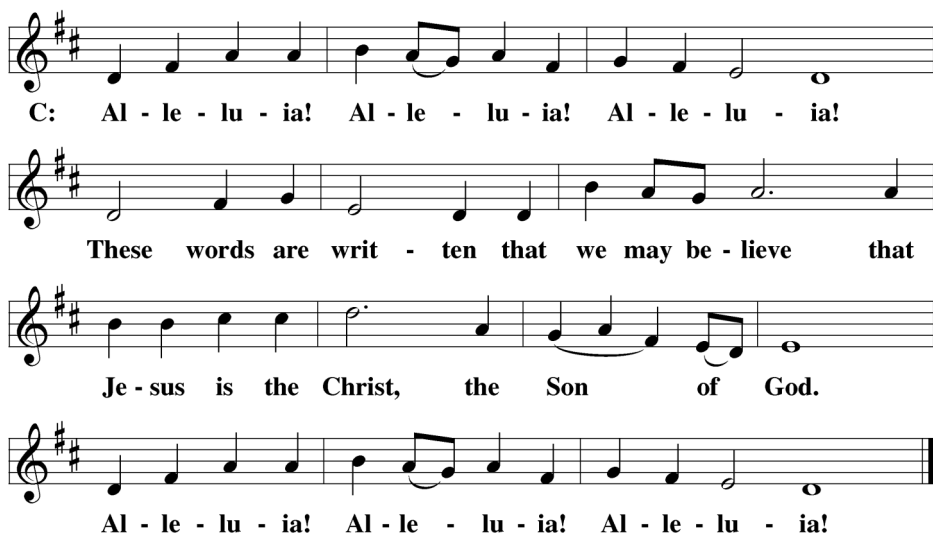
Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11 (NIV84)

I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6 (NIV84)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’ ”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift

es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
 us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on

for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.

- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
 Whose advent has our freedom won,
 Whom with the Father we adore
 And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5
 Tune: Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
 LM

SERMON

When the Lord Comes Near, He Humbles His People Luke 3:1-6

STAND

APOSTLES' 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

OFFERING

GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

(Special prayers and intercessions may follow.)

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

(Silent prayer.)

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

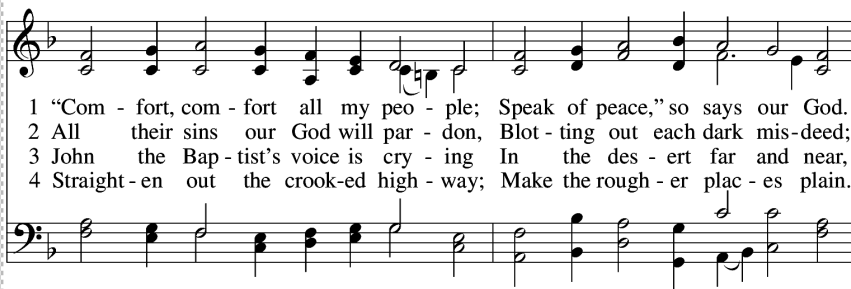
LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

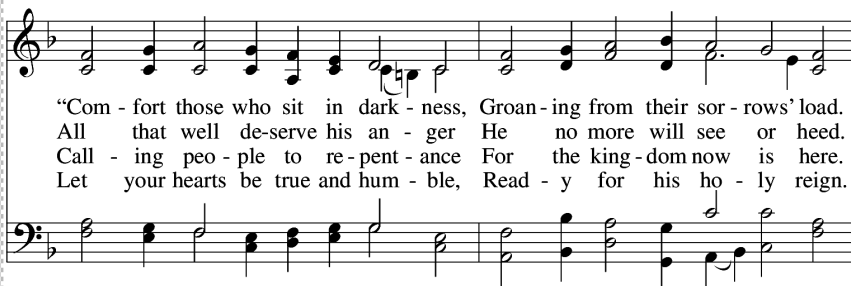
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

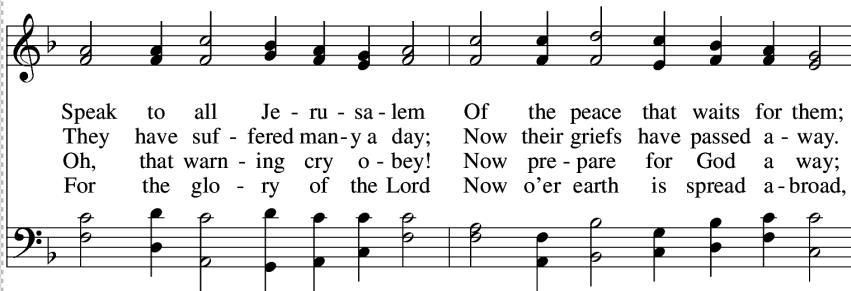
BE SEATED



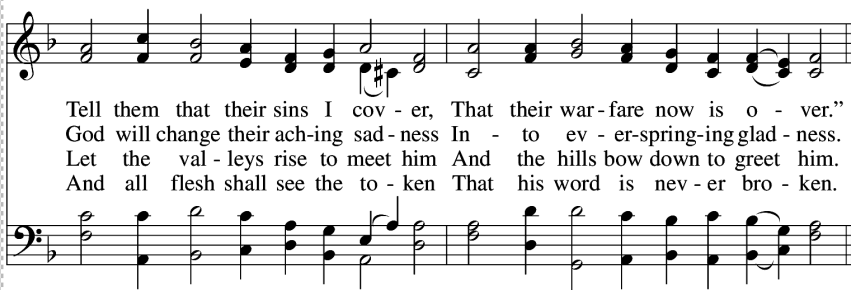
1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace," so says our God.
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each dark mis-deed;
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load.
 All that well de - serve his an - ger He no more will see or heed.
 Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance For the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, Read - y for his ho - ly reign.



Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 They have suf - fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, That their war - fare now is o - ver."
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

FREU DICH SEHR
 87 87 77 88

M: Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and
bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

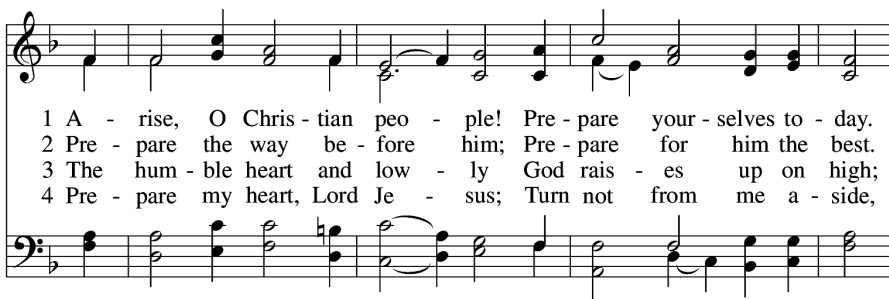


M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

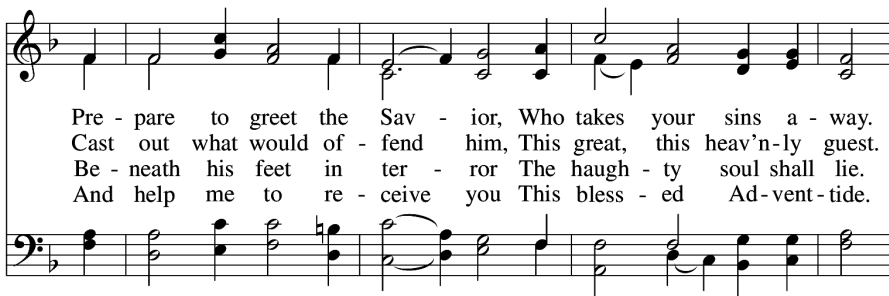
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be
gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



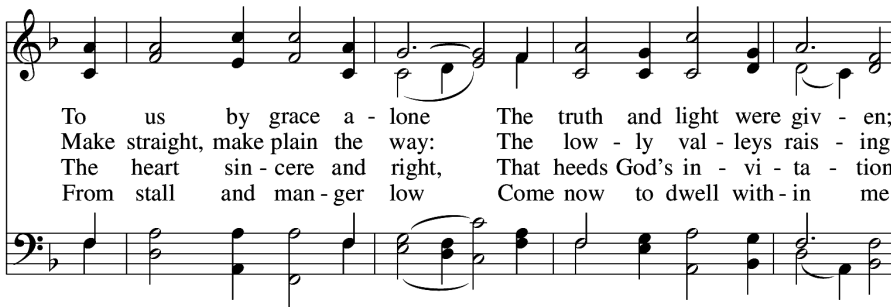
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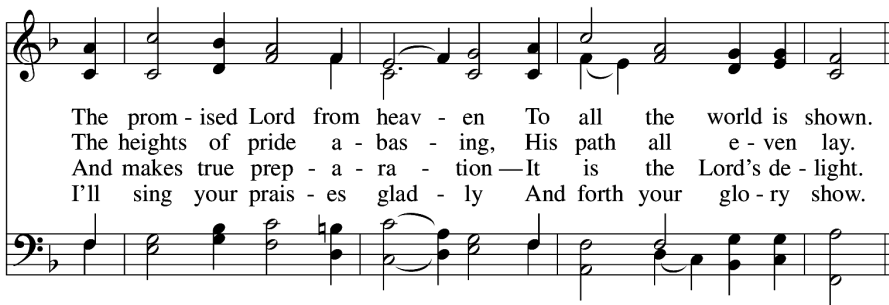
1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to - day.
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre - pare for him the best.
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on high;
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a - side,



Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way.
 Cast out what would of - fend him, This great, this heav'n-ly guest.
 Be - neath his feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie.
 And help me to re - ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide.



To us by grace a - lone The truth and light were giv - en;
 Make straight, make plain the way: The low - ly val - leys rais - ing,
 The heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion
 From stall and man - ger low Come now to dwell with - in me;



The prom - ised Lord from heav - en To all the world is shown.
 The heights of pride a - bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 And makes true prep - a - ra - tion—It is the Lord's de - light.
 I'll sing your prais - es glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS

December 5 - 12

Sunday	8:00 am	Worship
	8:45 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Open Forum
	10:30 am	Worship
	1:30 pm	Kunama Worship
	5:00 pm	Advent by Candlelight
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Catechism
	5:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Advent Worship
Saturday	8:45 am	Homeless Meal Preparation
	10:00 am	Sunday School Christmas Practice
	1:00 pm	New Hymnal Evaluation Committee
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship
	8:45am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Adult Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship
	1:30 pm	Kunama Worship
	5:15 pm	Church Council

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