

A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024



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.

To the parents of young children:

God put the wiggle in children, don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house - all are welcome! If you need to bring your child out of the service, the nursery is open for you with a TV in it streaming worship.

**indicates please stand as you are able*

Welcome

* Gathering Hymn

The King Shall Come

ELW # 260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

* Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

* Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence is kept for reflection).

God of mercy,

All: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

Pastor: God of might,

All: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

Pastor: God in our midst,

All: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

Pastor: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

All: Amen.

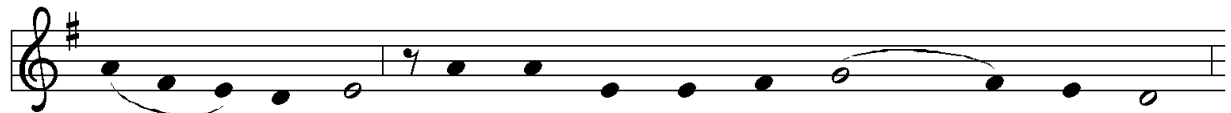
* Kyrie

O Come O Come Emmanuel

ELW #257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

* Prayer of the Day

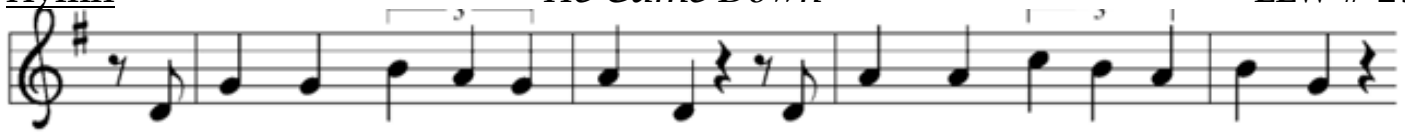
Leader: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

All: 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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Wolff Family

Children's Message



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;



he came down that we may have love; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

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."

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm - **Psalm 25:1-10** (*read responsively*)

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.

⁸**You 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.

¹⁰**All 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

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.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Acclamation

Light One Candle

WOV #630



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

* Gospel Lesson - Luke 21:25-36

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 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 does not catch you

unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ 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.”

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Clarence Pettit

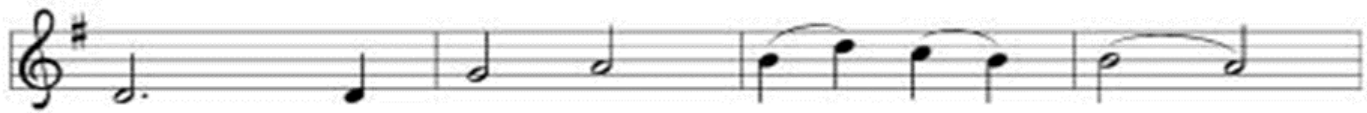
* Hymn of the Day

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

ELW # 435



1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once comes for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in in sol - emn - splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.

Continued on next page

* Prayers of Intercession

Leader: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

After each prayer petition:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

* Sharing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

Offertory

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

ACS #949

* Offertory Response

As Saints of Old v.3

ELW # 695



3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

* Offering Prayer

Leader: Creator God,

All: you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

* The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* Preface

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

* Holy Holy Holy

You Are Holy

ELW #525

Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more

än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.

Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here

väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,

du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!

Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!

ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

* Words of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

* The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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.

* Invitation to Communion

Pastor: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

All: Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion and Offering

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, so please join us. You are invited forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion of bread and wine.

Please let a worship leader know if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice. If you prefer to commune using the individually packaged elements, there are some on the altar rail.

For those worshipping virtually, now is the time to receive your previously blessed elements.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Music

Christ Be Our Light

ELW # 715

* Prayer After Communion

Leader: Let us pray. Generous God,

All: we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

* Blessing

Pastor: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.

All: Amen.

* Sending Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW #254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

* Sending

Leader: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW # 254

*The altar flowers are given in loving memory of our parents,
Frank and Katie Brigman and Lewis and Clarabel Heavner
by Joe and Leslie Brigman.*

Save the Dates!

Dec. 8th - Youth Group/Family Caroling immediately following worship- let Kathy Dukes know if you can make it.

Dec 24th at 4pm- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Dec 29th- Lessons and Carols Service

Women of the ELCA

Come join us for our December Christmas get together December 7 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Building. We will celebrate that morning with a Potluck Christmas Brunch. Bring a brunch item to share. Libby has some wonderful ornaments from Nancy Merck that she will share with us. Joyce has some of Barb Kutz's teapots and Libby has some of Nancy's mugs that will be the prizes as we play Christmas Bingo (thank you Diana). Let Joyce know if you have any other ideas for games or readings.

Please remember to bring any items you would like to donate to the Hurricane Relief kits to the meeting on Dec 7

It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas Eve!

Please find the order forms in the Narthex. They are \$17.50 each and the last week to order will be December 15th



Christmas Carolers Unite!

Sunday December 8th immediately after Church stay for lunch and Christmas cookies then depart to spread Christmas cheer and carols with some of our shut-in members.

Please let Kathy Dukes know if you can make it so we can have enough pizza and festive costumes to go around!



You may send prayer requests or changes for the prayer list to admin@amflc.org.

Prayer List

Members: David Bass, Lynda Booth, Jr. Bryant and family, Charles Burton, Penny Damron, Chris Dukes, Pastor Mary and Richard Lautensleger, Barbara McGee, Linda Meyer, Pastor John and Nancy Merck, Harry Sheldon, and Carol Stroup.

Loved Ones: Students and staff at Paw Creek Elementary School, Russell and Tammy Bridges, Jonathan Davis (family of Mia Strong), friends of Grant and Esther Fulghum, Carol Howell (friend of the church), Anthony Long and his sister's family (friends of the church), Tim Smith (NC Synod Bishop), and Isabel and Elmer Sundlie, and Brenda and Ronnie Thomas (relations of the McGees).

Worship Leadership

Pastor - Clarence Pettit

Organist/Music Director - Penny Damron

Pianist- Patti Skinner **Guitarist** -Timothy Gentsch

Worship Assistant - Jim McGee

Livestream Operator - Chris Dukes

Ushers - Doug and Debbie Wells

Sound Board Operator - Joe Brigman

Acolyte - Jason Strong **Crucifer** - Bryson Graham

Come worship in-person:

8200 McClure Circle, Charlotte, NC 28216

Or find us online:

www.amflc.org



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