

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 1, 2019



Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)
Rev. David Wetmore, Senior Pastor
Rev. Scott Holoubek, Assistant Pastor
1300 Townline Road
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403
(715) 848-2040

Pastor Wetmore Cell: (715) 581-6084

Pastor Holoubek Cell: (715) 780-7169

Website: www.clc-wausau.org

The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 1, 2019

HYMN "Once He Came in Blessing" LSB 333 vs. 1-3

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE BAPTISM OF OWEN CARL PIEHLER

OPENING SENTENCES *Matthew 24:42; Romans 13:11; Isaiah 2:4; Psalm 122:1*

P: Stay awake,

C: for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

P: For salvation is nearer to us now

C: than when we first believed.

P: They shall beat their swords into plowshares,

C: and their spears into pruning hooks.

P: I was glad when they said to me,

C: "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Our Lord urges us to stay awake and watch for His return, when He will usher in the kingdom of God. Paul tells us to "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

C: In our fallen sinful condition, our thoughts, words, and deeds often reflect the fallen world around us. Heavenly Father, forgive us for Jesus' sake, and by Your Holy Spirit turn our feet to walk in ways pleasing to You. Awaken our faith that we greet You whenever You return.

P: Our Lord's first coming was to save us – to die and rise in our place. When we receive His body and blood in the Lord's Supper, it is for the remission of sins. When He returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, in which He promised through Isaiah, "He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

HYMN "Once He Came in Blessing" **LSB 333**

4 **Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing,
That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.**

© 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012765.
Public domain

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.

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

C: O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: O Lord, Branch of Jesse's tree, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Jesus warned, "Stay awake, for you do not know on what day Your Lord is coming." Let us pray. O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

C: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

RESPONSE..... **LSB 849**

I Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.

© 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012765.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Keep us vigilant, Lord God,

C: that we be ready to greet You today or whenever You return in power for both judgment and mercy,

P: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1–5

¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:(8–10) 11–14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “In This Advent”Tune: *LSB 686*

**In this Advent, brothers, sisters, Let us pause and so prepare
That we may greet Christ, our Savior, Here in worship and in
prayer.**

**He came once, fulfilling promise, And He shall come back again.
Daily comes He, Word Incarnate, In our hearts and minds to reign.**

**Brethren, heed the gracious warning Of the day of Christ’s return.
Stay awake and watchful ever, For His advent to discern.
Keep yourself alert and ready; Without notice shall He come
Then to usher all the faithful Into His eternal home.**

Text: James Pierce. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36–44

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said, ³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as

were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" *LSB 336*

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: As we wait for our Lord's return, let us pray for all people in their various needs and for the Church, here and around the world.

For any among us and all others who await freedom from the consequences of their past mistakes, from the injustices of their societies, and from their own worldly passions, that God would

surround them with people of faith to apply the gracious news of God's forgiveness, love, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!

P: For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, wherever people await an end to discord with their neighbors and calm across their borders, that God would use people in positions of power to order society at home and work for peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.

P: For people still waiting to hear and understand the Gospel, that God would inspire artists and craftspeople, musicians and poets to creatively carry the news of Christ's advent in history, His presence with us now, and His promised return, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

P: For people who cry out to God, awaiting relief from long-term ills or sudden crises of health, seeking an end to unemployment and financial woes, or not knowing where to turn for help, including . . . , let us pray to the Lord.

C: Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!

P: For the Church here and around the world, led by clergy and lay members, waiting for every opportunity to grow in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation.

P: For ourselves and everyone who eagerly await the return of our Savior, whose kingdom shall never end, let us pray to the Lord.

C: That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

P: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who entered human history as one of us, who suffered, died, and rose again to secure for us eternal salvation, and who has promised to return to usher us into His eternal kingdom. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS..... Tune: LSB 397

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of hosts, by all adored:
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of Your name!
With the heav'nly host we sing
Highest praises to our King:**

**Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame
Be to Him who, in God's name,
Now draws nigh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hail! Hosanna! Praises be
To the Lord eternally!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son into human history to take our sins to the cross on our behalf. We praise You, heavenly Father, for raising Him on the third day as You accepted the full payment, thereby declaring us righteous for His sake.

Awaiting His return at the end of all things, we give thanks that in this Sacrament You nourish us so that we are strengthened to put off the works of darkness and put on our Lord Jesus Christ to walk in the light of Your love.

Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood, receiving the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation which come in this Sacrament. We give thanks for Your salvation; we rejoice in Christ's presence now; we await His return with judgment on the world and grace to all who await His return. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI Tune: *LSB 358*

**O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sin release:
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *LSB 357*

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that in this Sacrament You have refreshed us so that we confidently await Your Son's return. Grant that we live each day of our pilgrimage in love toward You and the people around us until that day we greet our Savior at His return in glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN "Arise, O Christian People" *LSB 354*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

THIS WEEK AT CLC — (12/1/19 – 12/8/19)

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am; Christian Education, 10:30am

Tuesday: Ladies Guild Christmas Party

Wednesday: Bible Study, 8:30am; 1st year Confirmation Class, 5:30pm

Thursday: Advent Worship/HC, 6:30pm

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am; Christian Education, 10:30am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (Week ending November 24, 2019)

General & Building Funds: \$6167.50; Blessings: \$23.91

Attendance: Thursday: 19; Sunday: 117

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND VISITORS: We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship following the service. Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

THANK YOU to all who helped with putting up the Christmas Decorations!

Join the Ladies Guild for the **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY/POTLUCK** on Tuesday, December 3, beginning at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to pass. Refreshments and dessert will be provided. The Wisconsin Valley Lutheran High singers will be entertaining us. Please sign up by December 1. (The sign up sheet is on the LWML bulletin board.)

THE GIVING TREE this year will provide gifts to relatives of the Beidle family who lost everything in a recent fire. You can find the gift tags and instructions in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

LUTHERAN WITNESS subscriptions are once again available for order. The cost of the annual subscription (11 issues) will be \$22.56. If you are interested in receiving a subscription for 2020, please contact the Church Secretary with your name and mailing address by no later than December 15, 2019. Subscriptions begin in March.

Two out of every three people do not know Jesus as their Savior. Lutheran Women in Mission is reaching out to a world in need of the Gospel through mission grants. You have the opportunity to help reach others with the saving Word of Jesus. On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, **Giving Tuesday**, December 3, you may donate toward the 2019–2021 LWML Mission Grants by using LWML Facebook, lwml.org/givingtuesday. Your donation will be doubled on that day, thanks to the commitment of two generous donors. You can HELP by

sharing on Giving Tuesday. (If you are unable to donate online, you may send your contributions to the LWML office at 801 Seminary Place Suite L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Be sure to note Giving Tuesday with your contribution.)

The North WI District Board of Directors is taking the educational debt of our church workers very seriously. Over the past few months they have researched the needs of our NWD workers, reviewed the tools and programs implemented by other districts, and created a worker debt fund. In coordination with the December 3rd Giving Tuesday campaign used across the country, including multiple Synodical ministries, the staff has prepared a #GivingTuesday site for worker debt, with an opportunity to give online. We are striving to raise ten \$500 gifts for NWD worker debt. Please pray for our campaign to bring awareness and financial support for NWD workers. If you know someone with a heart for reducing worker debt, please share this link <https://grouprev.com/nwdworkerdebt>

“LIFE QUOTES” from Lutherans For Life

“Here is why Christmas matters ... [H]e too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death ...’ (Hebrews 2:14a). Imagine that. He needed a human body so it could be nailed to a cross. He needed human blood so it could be poured out as a sin offering for the world. For you. And it all started in Bethlehem. What can you say to that but ‘glory to God in the highest!’”
Pastor Mark Jeske, Time of Grace – (www.lutheransforlife.org)