

Advent 1

The Prayers of Advent: Keeping Watch



The Church Year begins with the season of Advent, a four week cycle of Sundays with an eye toward the coming nativity of Jesus. Tradition bears the season as a time of preparation, and we here at Our Savior Lutheran Church will observe the season traditionally as well.

The Advent season will be a time of prayer for us all. It will guide us into new dimensions of a prayer life if we simply engage in the process. Each of the four Sundays we celebrate will lead us in a different direction. This morning, we are in prayer about keeping watch.

The meerkat pictured above is watching for danger. Or perhaps the next thing coming down the road. We get a sense that most of life is all about keeping watch, getting ready and preparing for the next big thing which will be happening in our lives. We find that it resembles more of a discipline we choose to enter into.

Praying about keeping watch might suggest for us that we use this week as a time of prayer to watch for what is coming. Obviously, for believers, that is the birth of Jesus, and in our context, for His second coming. "Keeping Watch" indicates that we are selective focused on one event, and not another. A watchman on the wall would not be writing love letters to his sweetheart, but rather, focused on looking out at what might be approaching and then taking appropriate action.

Advent can be a time of focus for us. We can choose to let some things simply pass us by. We can focus on our lives of faith. We can choose to actively engage in a daily prayer venture with God so that it can take hold of us for the season. We can keep watch in our lives, but paying attention to what matters, and to ignore that which really does not matter.

May this season be a time of prayer, faith-focus, and blessing to you and yours. We all need to take the steps needed to set this season apart as a time of prayer.

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Welcome Books, Prayer Requests, Praise Reports and Announcements

CONFSSIONAL PRAYER

Pastor: In this season of Advent, our senses will be overwhelmed and we will be bombarded with all manner of distractions that will work against our true observance of the significance of the season. We will find ourselves being more concerned about less important things, and we will neglect the things that we should truly be about. This morning, we realize the difficulties that we face, and the poor job we have done with our response to the Word of God. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our Lord hears our prayers this day, and has offered to give us the grace of forgiveness. As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray and celebrate this morning in His Holy Name, **Amen.**

HYMN 591 72 O Come, O Come Emmanuel 1,2

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5

New Living Translation (NLT)

This is a vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all— the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the Lord's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore. Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:8-14

New Living Translation (NLT)

Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

New Living Translation (NLT)

"However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

"When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

“Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.

“So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON

“Keeping Watch”

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

SERMON HYMN: 72 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 3, 4, 5

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD’S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

All are invited to come together around this table as those who belong to the household of Christ, brothers and sisters who in our baptized lives live out the death and resurrection of Jesus. The family of the reborn and the reconciled, who inhabit a universe of grace, are invited to share. It is our Lord’s Table, you are

welcomed here! Gluten free wafers are available, and non-alcoholic white grape juice is served on the inner rings of the communion tray.

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

HYMN 78 Hark the Glad Sound 1,3,4

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, ***please place your cell phones on muted*** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

IN OUR PRAYERS: It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise Pastor will specifically ask for the requests, as well as any updates on prior prayer requests.

PLEASE HELP FINISHING THE DECORATIONS: Everyone is invited to share a piece of cake and some coffee as we wrap up the decorations this morning of the Christmas tree after worship. It won't take long if we all pitch in! Thanks to everyone who set things up for worship yesterday and today! We appreciate it!

A SPECIAL TWO HOUR BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY Join us for the special Bible study "Dynamics of Depression" which will address several biblical themes and give us insight into how we live our daily lives. It's not therapy, or anything like that-just good solid Bible study to discover God's plan for our lives. Join us on this coming Wednesday, at 10:00 AM.

ADVENT PLANS Next week we will continue our thoughts and reflections with prayer in Advent with a look at "Preparing A Way", how we might open space in our lives for Jesus. On the Third Sunday of Advent, we will look at "The Things We See" that is to say all of the things that are happening around us that we observe that are orchestrated by God's powerful hand. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we will close the season with Prayers about completing God's Will in this time and place. Be sure not to miss any of these special services!

Our Savior Lutheran Church

November 27th, 2016

Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC

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Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

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