

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University

Season of Advent

Advent 1



A mosaic map of 6th century Jerusalem
Located at St. George's Church
in the city of Madaba in the country of Jordan

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: *Rev. Sarah Wilson*

We gather in the presence of God to encounter Love that sets free. We do not come seeking crumbs of justice but a way of life that liberates.

Together, we practice courage in resisting evil and rejecting the temptations of complicity and complacency. The Spirit leads us in power and truth. Our faith is placed in Love Eternal that lifts broken spirits and brings new life from places of ruin. With hope that is neither narrow nor fragile, we come to follow Christ.

Today, we pause to acknowledge our land that was home to Indigenous peoples. On this day, we acknowledge, celebrate, and honor the lives and dignity of Indigenous peoples. We repent our sins of stealing this land. We recognize the violent forced removal and genocide perpetrated by our ancestors and the perpetuation of the conscious and unconscious harm we all still participate in today. We stand with all Indigenous people and their right to self-determination and justice. May we continue to strive towards deconstructing our colonial mindset and practices as we humbly give thanks for sacred land on this Thanksgiving weekend.

PRELUDE: *Non Komm' der Heiden Heiland BWV 699 (J.S. Bach)*
Henrik Berg, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Rev. Jeremy Serrano*

As Sarah waited 90 years for a son to fulfill God's promise. We wait in hope for what we thought had been promised to us As Moses waited 40 years in the desert being prepared by God to lead his people. We wait for emptiness and humility; for bravado to wither As Israel waited 40 years in the desert, hungry, depressed, thirsting, unsure We wait for things to move on and generations to pass. As the prophets waited 1000 years of promises that God would raise up a Savior. We wait for things to change. As Mary waited 9 months of her 14 years for the child of God R: We feel the birth pangs yet fear for the child. As John the Baptist waited scanning

the crowds for the one whose sandals he would not be worthy to untie.
 We long for an experience of the Divine As Jesus waited
 30 years of creeping time
 40 days in the desert of temptation
 3 years in the midst of
 misunderstanding 3 days in the depth
 of hell

So, we wait for Gods time
 Preparing the way
 Our turn to toil on leveling mountains and straightening
 paths Our turn to watch the time horizon
 Our turn to pass on the
 hope the one who promised
 is faithful and will come
 back

[Taken from: *Alternative Worship* (Baker, Gay, & Brown, 2003)]

GATHERING HYMN: Hark the Glad Sound! (ELW 239)

Lucy Kay Osborne, Organist



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: *O Come, O Come Emanuel*
Diana Washington, Instrumentalist

PRAYER OF THE DAY: *Rev. Jeremy Serrano*

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE WORD: *Daniel 6:6-27 - Rev. Tor K. Berg*

⁶So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. ⁸Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked."

⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

¹⁰Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. ¹¹The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. ¹²Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ¹³Then they

responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day."

¹⁴When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. ¹⁵Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

¹⁶Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" ¹⁷A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

¹⁹Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions.

²⁰When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." ²³Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁴The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions – they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: "May you have abundant prosperity! ²⁶I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

For he is the living God,
enduring forever.
His kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion has no end.
²⁷He delivers and rescues,
he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth;
for he has saved Daniel
from the power of the lions."

Word of God,
word of life.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: *Roger Steinke*

SERMON: *Rev. David Brauer Rieke*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *You'll Come (B. Ligertwood)*

Nathan Sliwa, Song Leader

Verse 1

I have decided, I have resolved to wait upon You, Lord.
My Rock and Redeemer, shield and reward, I'll wait upon You, Lord

Pre-Chorus 1

As surely as the sun will rise, you'll come to us. Certain as the dawn
appears.

Chorus

You'll come. Let Your glory fall, as You respond to us.
Spirit rain, flood into our thirsty hearts again.
You'll come. You'll come.

Verse 2

We are not shaken', we are not moved. We wait upon You, Lord.
Mighty deliverer, triumph and truth. We wait upon You, Lord.

Pre-Chorus 2

As surely as the sun will rise, you'll come to us. Certain as Your word

endures.

Chorus

You'll come. Let Your glory fall, as You respond to us.

Spirit rain, flood into our thirsty hearts again.

You'll come. You'll come.

Chains, be broken. Lives, be healed. Eyes, be opened. Christ is revealed.

Chains, be broken. Lives, be healed. Eyes, be opened. Christ is revealed.

Chorus

You'll come. Let Your glory fall, as You respond to us.

Spirit rain, flood into our thirsty hearts again.

You'll come. You'll come.

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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 THE PEOPLE: *Rev. Jeremy Serrano*

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all-in need.

A brief silence.

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless the social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served.

Let your light shine, oh God

That we might be saved.

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth.

Let your light shine, oh God

That we might be saved.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation.

Let your light shine, Oh God
That we might be saved.

Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away.

Let you light shine, Oh God
That we might be saved.

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people.

Let your light shine, Oh God
That we might be saved.

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Let you light shine, Oh God
That we might be saved.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.
Amen.

CONFESSIONS & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one

another.

Silence for self reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what
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 the 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus the Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained
minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore
declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Zoom worship; peace sign with hands and fingers, bow, etc.).

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also, with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we
rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless
mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the
sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER: *Rev. Jeremy Serrano*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN: *Soon and Very Soon* (ELW 439)

Michael Larson, Song Leader



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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DISMISSAL: *Rev. Sara Wilson*

Be Safe. Save Lives. Share God's Love. Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *O Come, O Come Emanuel*

Worship Participants

Lead Minister:	Rev. Tor Kristian Berg
Presiding Minister	Rev. Sara Wilson
Assisting Minister	Rev. Jeremy Serrano
Sacristan	Misty Lampshire
Advent Candle/Peace	Sharon DeGraw
	Koa Stephens, Sam LaDue
PLTS Musicians	Michael Larson, Nathan Sliwa, Diana Washington, Koa Stephens
Organist:	Lucy Kay Osborne, Henrik Berg
Children's Sermon:	Roger Steinke

Worship Planning Team

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O Come, O Come

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You'll Come

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Isaiah 64:1-9

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (p. 879). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (p. 2533). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

Mark 13:24-37

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (p. 2299). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.