

# Midweek Advent Worship



## “Advent Hope”

Calvary Lutheran Church  
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December 2, 2020 7:00 p.m.



## Order of Service for **FIRST MIDWEEK ADVENT**

### *Service of Prayer and Preaching*

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### **Opening Anthem**

*Sung by the choir*

### 6 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.*

*Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set your people free;  
From our sins and fears release us  
By your death on Calvary.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation,  
Hope to all the earth impart,  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

*Born your people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now your gracious kingdom bring.  
By your own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By your all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to your glorious throne.*

*Stand*

### **Opening Responses**

This is the day which the Lord has made  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it**

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
**The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
**Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Make His paths straight.**

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.  
**Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

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.**

*Sit*

## **Anthem**

Savior of the Nations, Come

*Text: Martin Luther, 1524. Arr. by J. S. Bach Public Domain*

*Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, here make Thy home!  
Wonder at it, heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.*

*Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God  
Was the Word of God made flesh, Woman's Blossom, sweet and fresh.*

*Lord, Thy manger is so bright, Night sends forth a novel light;  
Darkness must not enter there, Faith abides in light fore'er.*

*Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.*

## **Readings from Holy Scripture**

## First Lesson

Lamentations 3:21-24

*We have good reason for hope – because God is faithful.*

LAMENTATIONS 3:21 Nevertheless, I keep this in my heart. This is the reason I have hope:

<sup>22</sup>By the mercies of the Lord we are not consumed,  
for his compassions do not fail.

<sup>23</sup>They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup>My soul says, “The Lord is my portion. Therefore, I will hope in him.

*After the reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Lesson

Hebrews 10:19-25

*Our hope of being saved from our sins is sure – because God is faithful.*

HEBREWS 10:19 Brothers, we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus. <sup>20</sup>It is a new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh. <sup>21</sup>We also have a great priest over the house of God. <sup>22</sup>So let us approach with a sincere heart, in the full confidence of faith, because our hearts have been sprinkled to take away a bad conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold on firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.

<sup>24</sup>Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works. <sup>25</sup>Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

*After the reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:13-27

*The Emmaus disciples hoped in Jesus and Jesus taught them that their hope was valid – because God is faithful.*

LUKE 24:13 Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” Saddened, they stopped.

<sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

<sup>19</sup>“What things?” he asked them.

They replied, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup>Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. <sup>23</sup>When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

*After the reading:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsory**

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.  
**This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.  
**This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
**This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

*Stand*

## **A Reading from the Catechism**

### **The First Article**

*Creation*

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

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities. And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

*Sit*

**Advent Meditation**

Lamentations 3:21-24

## **Put Hope in the Center**

*Meditation Notes:*

**Hymn**

8 – Come, O Precious Ransom, Come



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 Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
 Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*,  
 Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

*Stand*

## Prayer

In peace let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, for the proclamation of the Gospel, and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation, our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For... [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]... let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For these and all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## **Collect for the Word**

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Evening Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. **Amen.**

*Sit*

## **Anthem**

Comfort, Comfort all My People

*Text: public domain; Tune: Koiné, Judas on Straight Street Publications*

*Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;*

*Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over.*

*“Comfort, comfort all my people; Speak of peace,” so says our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows’ load.  
Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over.”*

*All their sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserve his anger He no more will see or heed.  
They have suffered many a day; Now their griefs have passed away.  
God will change their aching sadness Into ever-springing gladness.*

*John the Baptist’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,  
Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.*

*Straighten out the crooked highway; Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, Ready for his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord Now o’er earth is spread abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token That his word is never broken.*

## **Blessing**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you. **Amen.**

## Advent Hope

There are as many traditions surrounding Advent as there are homes in which it is celebrated.

In the Roman church, Advent was initially a season of repentance, similar in feel to our present day Lent. As Lent prepared people for the celebration of Easter, so Advent was viewed as a season of penitential preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

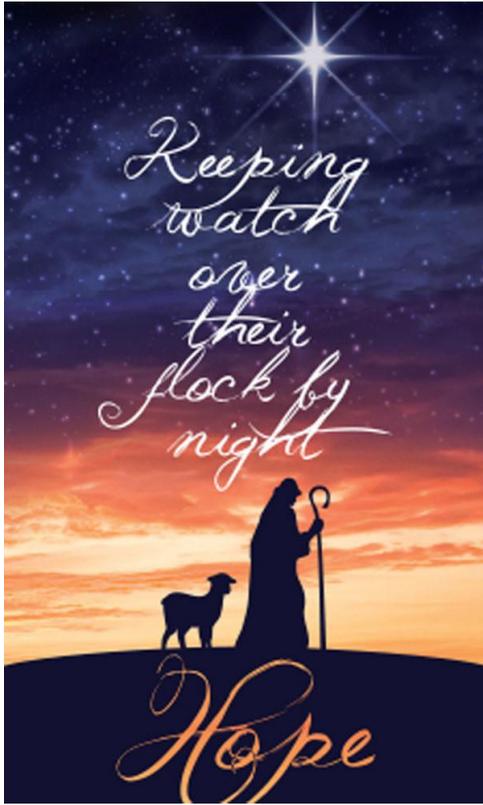
Farther west of Rome, the budding church in France approached Advent with greater zeal and joy. Anticipation rather than penitence marked their season of Advent.

Over the years, the church has struggled to merge these two varying traditions. One solution has been to maintain the stark readings concerning Jesus' second advent during the church's Sunday services, while reflecting greater joyful anticipation for the celebration of Jesus' first advent on Wednesday evening worship.

The Advent Wreath has been a welcome tradition that both keeps a solemn focus while also exuding joyful anticipation. Contrary to popular belief, it is not of ancient origin, but has a history less than 200 years! The traditions, meanings, and symbolism surrounding the Advent Wreath are not bound by a common thread of history. Some wreaths have as many as 24 candles, while others have only four. The candles themselves can be white, blue, violet, red or some combination thereof.

More recent traditions place a name on each candle. But even this tradition does not hold steady! Among some the candles are designated as: Prophet's Candle, Bethlehem's Candle, Shepherd's Candle, and Angel's Candle. Others refer to the candles as: Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace. Still others understand the candles to symbolize: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

This year, Calvary will follow the last tradition. On each Wednesday during Advent and on Christmas Day, we will focus our attention, in succession, on the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love (with Jesus at the center). Not only will readings, meditations, and the Advent wreath emphasize these gifts, new banners will also help highlight these specific Advent themes.



Hope



# HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2020

## *“Jesus Is the Greatest Gift”*



November 28,29	Advent 1	Regular schedule
December 2	Midweek Advent	7:00 p.m.
December 5,6	Advent 2	Regular schedule
December 9	Midweek Advent	7:00 p.m.
December 12,13	Advent 3	Regular schedule
December 16	Midweek Advent	7:00 p.m.
December 19,20	Advent 4	Regular schedule
December 24	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	7:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Compline	11:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Festival with the Lord's Supper	9:30 a.m.
December 26,27	First Sunday after Christmas	Regular Schedule
December 31	New Year's Eve with the Lord's Supper	7:00 p.m.