

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2016

## Worship Focus

**The Lord is Coming: Rejoice and Persevere**



AND THE  
POOR HAVE  
GOOD NEWS  
BROUGHT  
TO THEM

MATTHEW 11:5

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Service of Word and Sacrament

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“Thank the Lord” Tune: Richard Hillert. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Augsburg Fortress

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OPENING HYMN

13 - There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, A  
2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; Get  
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; The



call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, A high - way for our God! The  
peo - ple The com - ing of their King. Like the  
na - tions, And he shall right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, The lof - ty  
flow'rs of the field they per - ish; Like grass their  
feed his flock like a shep - herd, The lambs shall



hills brought low; Make straight all the crook - ed  
works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of  
gent - ly hold, To pas - tures of peace shall



pla - ces Where the Lord our God may go!  
na - tions Shall pass like a dream a - way;  
lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
Tune: ASCENSION (Irregular) Henry H. Bancroft, b. 1904-1988.

## INVOCATION

- Minister**            The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- Congregation**    **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

**M** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me a sinner.**

**M** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## LORD HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

**M** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



**M** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Collect  
of the  
Day*



## THE WORD

### **FIRST LESSON** Isaiah 35:1-10

We can be patient and persevere because God has promised that the coming of the Messiah will change everything – and it will!

ISAIAH 35:1 The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup> it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;

<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

<sup>8</sup> And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
it will be for those who walk in that Way;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.

<sup>9</sup> No lion will be there,  
nor will any ferocious beast get up on it;  
they will not be found there.  
But only the redeemed will walk there,

<sup>10</sup> and the ransomed of the LORD will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Then the eyes of the blind shall  
be opened, and the ears of the deaf  
unstopped; then shall the lame man  
leap like the deer, and the tongue  
of the mute sing for joy.

+ ISAIAH 35:5-6 +



# PSALM

# Psalm 146

Refrain Tune: Lynn Trapp. © 1989 MorningStar Music Publishers.  
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Praise the LORD, | Q my soul.\*

I will sing praise to my God as long | as I live.

Do not put your trust in | princes,\*

in mortal men, who | cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the | LORD his God,\*

the maker of heav | en and earth.

## *Refrain*

The LORD gives food to the | hungry,\*

the LORD sets | prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight | to the blind,\*

the LORD lifts up those who are | bowed down.

The LORD watches over the | outcast\*

and sustains the fatherless and the | widow.

The LORD remains faithful for | ever.\*

He upholds the cause of | the oppressed.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*

and to the Holy | Spirit,

as it was in the be | ginning,\*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

## *Refrain*

## **SECOND LESSON James 5:7-11**

Patience and perseverance are admirable Christian qualities as we wait for Jesus' return.

<sup>JAMES 5:7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup> Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup> Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**M** We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**C** **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

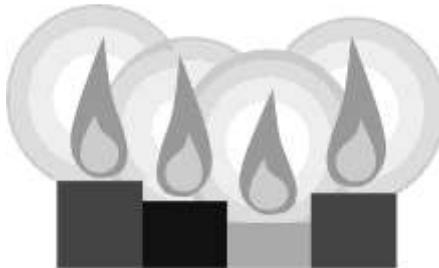
**M** We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**C** **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

**M** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C** **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Four Advent candles are lit.*



## GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

Jesus' confession helps any doubters to persevere in their faith in Jesus as the long expected Messiah.

MATTHEW 11:2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples<sup>3</sup> to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup> Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

<sup>7</sup> As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup> Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.' "

<sup>11</sup> I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*After the reading of the Gospel the congregation responds:*



## HYMN OF THE DAY

14 - Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -  
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -  
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God  
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the  
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -  
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in -  
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To  
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make  
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The  
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and  
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly  
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's  
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
 in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.  
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607-62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

## **SERMON**

Job 1:6-22

### **Wait for Deliverance**

1. God will deliver you
2. Meanwhile, he has a plan

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED**

**C 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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

## **FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS**

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

For the Church, that the glad tidings of her approaching Savior would sustain her in faith so that in the midst of the evils of this present age, she might patiently await His appearing in glory; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who suffer for Christ, that as they are persecuted, imprisoned and martyred, they may be kept steadfast in their trials until they obtain gladness and joy where all sorrow and sighing flee away; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the homeless and the hungry and those who suffer want through unemployment, that they may receive the help that they need, and that we as God's blessed children may live out our calling to serve Christ in them; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and suffering, [*and especially for \_\_\_\_\_,*] that the One who opens the eyes of the blind and makes the lame man leap like a deer may sustain them in their trials with His compassion and grant them healing in accord with His perfect will; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who come to the Lord's Supper, that as they may partake of the body and blood that was offered up for their ransom, they may be grounded in the truth that they are the redeemed of the Lord, so that they may ever rejoice in His forgiveness and life; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, dear Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.



## THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE and PROPER PREFACES

**M** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**M** Lift up your hearts.



**C:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**M** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C:** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*)



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**M** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - - men.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - - men.

## DISTRIBUTION

*The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

## 20 – When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem -  
2 Be - fore Saint John was born, He leaped in joy - ful  
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who bears the world's trans -  
4 Oh, grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re -



na - tion, Saint John the Bap - tist came With  
meet - ing, Con - fess - ing him as Lord Whose  
gres - sion, Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The  
joic - ing, The word pro - claimed by John, Our



words of con - so - la - tion. With true fore - run - ner's  
moth - er he was greet - ing. By Jor - dan's roll - ing  
dev - il's dread op - pres - sion. Be - hold the Lamb of  
true re - pent - ance voic - ing, That glad - ly we may



zeal The great - er one he named, And him, as  
stream, A new E - li - jah bold, He tes - ti -  
God, Who takes a - way our sin, Who for our  
walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way Un - til we



yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.  
fied of him Whom proph - ets had fore - told.  
peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.  
live with him In his e - ter - nal day.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.  
Tune: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT (67 67 66 66) Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701, alt.

## THANKSGIVING

### THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise, Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYER AND BLESSING

**M** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - men.

**M** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



# CLOSING HYMN

1 – The Advent of our King



1 The ad - vent of our King Our  
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In -  
 3 O Zi - on's Daugh - ter, rise To  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He  
 5 Be - fore the dawn - ing Day Let



prayers must now em - ploy,  
 car - nate deigns to be,  
 meet your low - ly King,  
 soon will come a gain,  
 sin's dark deeds be gone,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In  
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To  
 Nor let a faith - less heart de - spise The  
 And his true mem - bers all u - nite With  
 The sin - ful self be put a - way, The



strains of ho - ly joy,  
 set his ser - vants free,  
 peace he comes to bring,  
 him in heav'n to reign.  
 new self now put on,

6 All glory to the Son,  
 Who comes to set us free,  
 With Father, Spirit, ever one  
 Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt.  
 Tune: ST. THOMAS (SM) Aaron Williams, 1731-76.

*After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.*

# *Advent and Christmas at Calvary*

## Weekend Worship during the Advent Season

*Saturday evening at 6 pm and Sunday morning at 8 and 11 am*

*All services during Advent will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper*

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – November 27, 2016

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 4, 2016

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 11, 2016

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 18, 2016

## Wednesday Worship during the Advent Season

*Soup Suppers begin at 6 pm in the fellowship hall*

*Worship at 7 pm in the sanctuary*

November 30, 2016 – Advent Lessons and Carols

December 7, 2016 – Advent Worship

December 14, 2016 – Advent Worship

## Special Services during Advent and Christmas

Friday, December 16, 2016 – Children's Christmas Service

7 pm – Worship in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 21, 2016 – Christmas Concert

7 pm – in the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 24, 2016 – Christmas Eve

7 pm – Lesson and Carols and 11 pm Christmas Compline

Sunday, December 25, 2016 – Christmas Day

9:30 am – Christmas Worship with Communion

Saturday, December 31, 2016 – New Year's Eve

7 pm – Worship with Communion