

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 2, 2018

Worship Focus

He Comes, Bearing Gifts: The Gift of Hope



**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
9807 CHURCH ROAD
DALLAS, TX 75238 + 214-348-5567
churchsec@caltex.org**

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of Word and Sacrament

Christian Worship, p. 26

Service of Word and Sacrament © Northwestern Publishing House 1993.

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

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OPENING HYMN

26 - Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes on clouds tri - um - phant When the heav'ns shall



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
pass a - way. Je - sus comes a - gain in glo - ry;



Low - ly came on earth to die, Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer, Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Let us, then, our hom - age pay, Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
ev - er sing - ing Till the dawn of end - less day.

Text: Godfrey Theing, 1823-1903, abr., alt.

Tune: SIEH, HIER BIN ICH, EHRENKÖNIG (87 87 87) *Geistreiches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1698.

INVOCATION

Gathering Rite new texts and music; © 2018 Jeremy S. Bakken. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Minister In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

M When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation – the human race – in his image (Genesis 1:26). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (Romans 6:23). We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M However, God – who is Love – did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

**(sung) O, come, O, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4,5). In view of God's mercy, today we light the *hope* candle. The Spirit declares through the psalmist, "Put your *hope* in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with him is full redemption" (Psalm 130:7).

C **We wait for the Lord, and in his word we put our *hope* (Psalm 130:5).**

**(sung) O, come, our Hope, who has declared
"Salvation's won; do not despair."
Help us believe that once for all
You bore God's wrath, redeeming all.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M In the hope of God we go to the world – to our friends, relatives, acquaintances, and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

C God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).

(sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 33:14-16

The nation of Israel lived in hope that, one day, a descendant of King David would provide perfect justice, safety, and righteousness. God fulfilled this promise when he sent Jesus, not to be the King of Israel, but to be the Savior of the world.

JEREMIAH 33:14 “The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

¹⁵ “In those days and at that time
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;
he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.
This is the name by which it will be called:
The LORD Our Righteousness.’

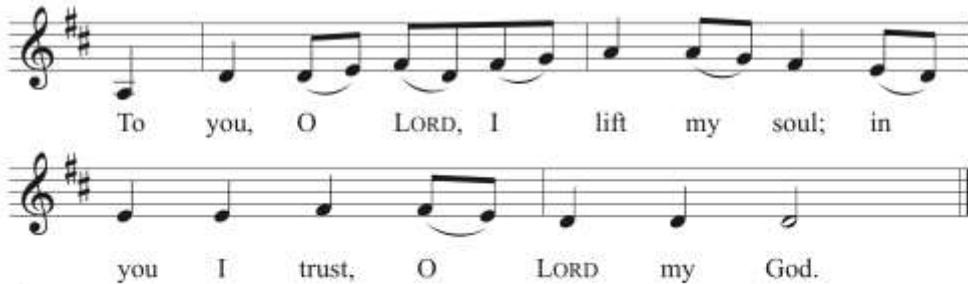
PSALM

Psalm 25

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Refrain



To you, O LORD, I lift my soul; in
you I trust, O LORD my God.

Tone



In you, LORD my God, I / put my trust.

I trust in you; do not let me be / put to shame.

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me / your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my / Savior.

**Remember, LORD, your great mer-/cy and love,
for they are / from of old.**

**Do not remember the sins of my youth and my re-/bellious ways;
according to your love remember me, for you, / Lord, are good.**

Refrain

LORD, forgive my iniquity, though / it is great.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and af-/flicted.

**Look on my affliction and / my distress
and take away / all my sins.**

**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 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

We live in the certain hope of being found holy and blameless on Judgment Day. We can be certain in that hope because God promises that through his Word he will strengthen the faith in Jesus that lives in our hearts.

¹ THESSALONIANS 3:9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

There are signs all around us that Christ could return anytime. We hope that he does, because we know that for God's children, Jesus isn't bringing judgment, but redemption.

^{LUKE 21:25} "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the reading of the Gospel the congregation responds:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

25 - The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child To
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn When
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn Shall
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And



light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the
bear and fight and die, But crowned with glo - ry
Christ, vic - to - rious, rose And left the lone - some
dawn up - on our race The day when Christ in
light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your



east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes—
like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.
place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
splen - dor comes And we shall see his face.
peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1857–1925, abr., alt.

Tune: CONSOLATION (CM) *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813.

SERMON

Luke 21:25-36

Hope for the Christmas Yet to Come

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

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

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

Almighty God, we give You thanks for bringing us to the end of one church year and to the beginning of another. As You have kept us in the days that have passed, so do we pray You would keep us in the days to come. Teach us to be faithful in all things, grateful for all Your gifts, urgent in Your work and hopeful for Christ's coming again. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we know how easily the good things You have supplied can be abused and used for harm instead of good. Deliver all who struggle with addiction, restore us when we fall and bring us the strength of Your Word and Sacraments to sustain us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we rejoiced with people who once welcomed Your Son with palms and hosannas, and we pray You to grant us a true faith, that we may welcome Him now as He comes to us in the bread that is His body and the cup that is His blood. Feed and nourish us in Christ, that we may renounce ungodliness and live righteous and holy lives to the praise of Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we enjoy the many and rich blessings You have showered upon our nation. Grant to us wise and faithful leaders who will help us use Your bounty for good. Establish Your peace among the nations and bring to nothing the plots of those who delight in evil, terror and violence. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we face illness, pain, suffering, grief and death, but not without Your grace to comfort us or Your hope to encourage us. Give grace to each as they have need, that sustained through their afflictions they may rejoice in Your promises [*recalling especially before You this day Your servants _____*]. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we pray not as we ought but as we are able, trusting in Your mercy to supply us with all things needful and beneficial. Keep far from us all things harmful, that we may be kept holy and blameless to the day of Christ's coming; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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*) and WORDS OF INSTITUTION



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.

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

704 - Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: HELMSLEY (87 87 12 7) Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

1 Lo, he comes with clouds de -
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be -
 3 Those dear to - kens of his
 4 Yea, A - men, let all a -

scend - ing, Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner
 hold him Robed in glo - rious maj - es -
 pas - sion Still his daz - zling bod - y
 dore you High on your e - ter - nal

slain. Thou - sand, thou - sand
 ty; Those who ri - di -
 bears, Cause of end - less
 throne. Ev - 'ry knee shall

saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph
 culed and sold him, Pierced and nailed him
 ex - ul - ta - tion To his ran - somed
 bow be - fore you; Come and take your

of his train. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to the tree, Deep - ly wail - ing,
 wor - ship - ers. With what won - der,
 peo - ple home! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Deep - ly wail - ing, Deep - ly wail - ing,
 With what won - der, With what won - der,
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
 Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 Gaze we on those glo - rious scars.
 You shall reign and you a - lone!

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 - jice 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.

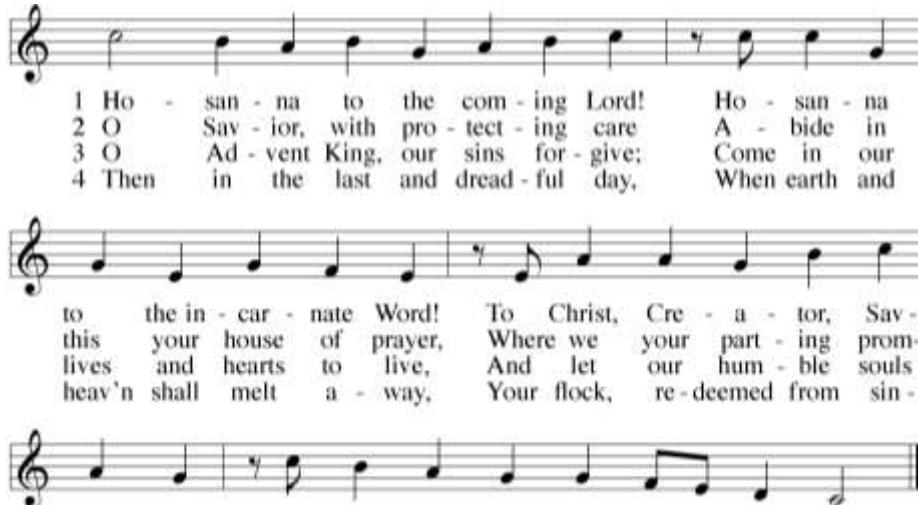
M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

21 - Hosanna to the Coming Lord



1 Ho - san - na to the com - ing Lord! Ho - san - na
2 O Sav - ior, with pro - tect - ing care A - bid - e in
3 O Ad - vent King, our sins for - give; Come in our
4 Then in the last and dread - ful day, When earth and

to the in - car - nate Word! To Christ, Cre - a - tor, Sav -
this your house of prayer, Where we your part - ing prom -
lives and hearts to live, And let our hum - ble souls
heav'n shall melt a - way, Your flock, re - deemed from sin -

ior, King Let earth, let heav'n ho - san - na sing.
ise claim, As - sem - bled in your sa - cred name.
be - come A tem - ple wor - thy of your name.
ful stain, Shall swell the sound of praise a - gain.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, abr., alt.

Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder aufs neu gebessert*, Leipzig, 1530.

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

