

ADVENT MIDWEEK DEVOTION
December 4, 2019

Come Lord Jesus

(A fresh look at the coming of God's Kingdom)

We begin with the end in mind.

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Christ who Came on Christmas will COME Again!

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

COME LORD JESUS – WITH YOUR ETERNAL KINGDOM

- L: I am not sure how many times we have prayed the Lord's Prayer, except to say, "multiple times". We all know how it begins:
- C: Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed by Thy name.**
- L: With the words "Our Father" we confess that God has made us to be his children in our baptism, and that we, as the people of God in Christ Jesus, have been united together into one family. We truly are brothers and sisters in Christ.
- C: As brothers and sisters in Christ, and children of our Heavenly Father, we further pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."**
- L: Those to whom Jesus first taught this prayer were looking for God's kingdom to come through the sending of the promised Messiah.
- C: We echo their anticipation as we pray for Jesus to be present, and in the center of our Christmas celebrations.**

L: In this petition we also look forward to the second coming of God's Messiah, the Last Day when Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

C: On that day Christ will take us and all believers in Christ to live with him in his eternal kingdom.

L: As we live in these days between the first and second coming of Jesus, we live in the promise that he is with us always, even to the end of the age, as our Lord and Savior.

C: And, so we pray, "Come Lord Jesus."

L: Come, live in our homes and in our families. Rule our minds and lives.

C: Be king of our hearts, making us to be servants of your will.

L: And thus we begin this Advent Gathering in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF HIS COMING

"Once He Came in Blessing"

LSB 333
Verses 1, 3, 4

THE WORD OF THE LORD

"Three Views of Christ's Second Coming"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:31-34, 41-46

HYMN OF HIS COMING

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

LSB 334
Verses 1, 3, 6

THE HOMILY *"Come Lord Jesus – but when and from where?"* **Revelation 21:1-5**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

L: God of our creation and re-creation, you who are constantly at work to shape us in the wholeness of Christ, you know the hardness of our hearts, that part of our being that

resists your shaping touch and your rule in our hearts. You know the deep inner rigidities of our being that reject your leadership. May your Holy Spirit soften our hardness and rigidity this day; help us to become pliable in your hands. Work in us, as you did on the day of our baptism:

C: Come Lord Jesus, be our Lord, and prepare us for the day of your return.

L: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS

(Please also register your attendance)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Revelation 7:9-17

"He Comes for You"

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The Great "O" Antiphons

L: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

C: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

L: O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai:

C: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

C: Come quickly to deliver us.

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, ... Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

WE JOIN THE ANGEL SONG

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB 380

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Remember to stop by the Giving Tree in the west entrance and select a card for a person who needs you to share Christ's love this season. Please follow the directions on the table for each card selected.

Thank You!

2020 Envelopes are available in the west hallway! Please stop by the table, print your name on the list next to the envelope # you are taking home. Information for electronic giving is also available. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office. **Please, do not use these envelopes until 2020!**

Advent Aglow - December 7th - 6 pm

Advent Carol Service - December 8th - 9:30 am

Caroling - December 10th - 6:30 pm

Midweek Advent Service - December 11th - 1 & 7 pm

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm - Festival Service - "Carols, Candles and Communion"

11:00 pm - "Unplugged"

(Communion in a mellow, reflective setting)

Christmas Day Worship - 9:30 am

"Includes a special message for the children"