

ADVENT MIDWEEK DEVOTION
December 11, 2019

Come Lord Jesus

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

Where is God's Kingdom Today?

Saint Thomas Lutheran – Eastpointe, MI
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THY KINGDOM COME – TODAY!

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 ANTICIPATION

"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349

THE WORD OF THE LORD

"Three Views of Christ's Coming to Us"

Romans 6:3-12, 14

Hebrews 4:12-16

Luke 1:46-55

HYMN OF HIS COMING

"Life Up Your Heads"

LSB 341
Verses 1, 4, 5

THE HOMILY

"Come Lord Jesus – Today?"

Romans 12:2

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

L: Gracious God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, deliver us, we pray, from the easy habit of thinking that our spirituality is private between us. It is so difficult to accept the idea that our spiritual wholeness cannot be attained outside of our life with others. Open our hearts and spirits to your reign in our lives. Help us to commit

all our relationships with others to you, that we may continuously reflect your light into the lives of others, and that they might say with us,

C: Thy kingdom come to us this day. Thy will be done in us each day.

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

Ephesians 1:3-14

"He Comes for You"

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

The Great "O" Antiphons

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: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open, and no one can close, you close and no one can open:

C: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

C: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

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

"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

LSB 377

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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!**

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. - Festival Service

"Carols, Candles and Communion"

11:00 p.m. - "Unplugged"

(Communion in a mellow, reflective setting)

Christmas Day Worship - 9:30 a.m.

"Includes a special message for the children"

New Year's Eve Worship - 5:30 p.m.