

ADVENT MIDWEEK DEVOTION

December 18, 2019

Come Lord Jesus

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

His Kingdom is Established

Saint Thomas Lutheran – Eastpointe, MI

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THE FIRST COMING OF THE CHRIST

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

"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

LSB 350
Verses 1 & 4

THE WORD OF THE LORD

"Three Stories of Anticipation"

Isaiah 7:10-17

Luke 1:26-33

Matthew 1:18-23

HYMN OF ANTICIPATION

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

LSB 378
Verse 3

THE HOMILY

"He Comes– For You"

Galatians 4:4-5

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

L: O God of wholeness, when we consider the lack of balance and wholeness in our lives, the one-sided spiritualities with which we attempt to appease you, to appear good in the

eyes of others, yet primarily seeking to please ourselves, we come face to face with our need for a holistic spiritual life. Help us, we pray, to hunger and thirst for the wholeness you have for us in Christ – and the completion of your work in us on the last day. Empower us to ignore what the world says, and to surrender to you whatever stands in the way of your healing in us.

C: I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.

L: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS

(Please also register your attendance)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Isaiah 42:1-8

“He Comes for You”

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

L: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

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

L: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

C: Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:

C: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

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

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

THE BENEDICTION

HYMN OF THE SENT

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387

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.