

First Sunday of Advent

Rite of Confirmation

Trinity Lutheran Church

28 November 2021

10:15 AM

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Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper!

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

instrument solo

LITANY

I will watch for you, O God,

For you are my fortress and strength.

A voice cries out in the wilderness,

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Proclaim the good news,

The kingdom of God has come near!

We wait with great expectation for the coming Messiah.

All creation is longing for the Son of God.

The light shines in the darkness,

And the darkness has not overcome it.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

“Advent is a Time to Wait” sung by children’s choir:

Advent is a time to wait;

Not quite time to celebrate.

Light the candles one by one,

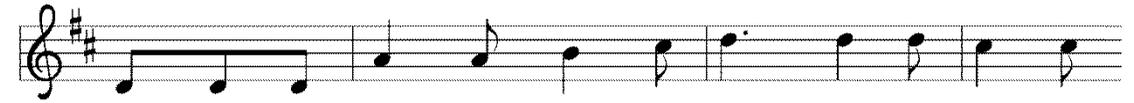
‘Til this Advent time is done.

Christmas day will soon be here,

Time for joy and time for cheer.

continued

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Lighting of advent wreath candle:

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

GREETING

From the One who was, who is, and who is to come: Grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“People, Look East”

in bulletin

1. *People, look east! The time is near*

Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,

Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east, and sing today—

Love, the Guest, is on the way.

2. *Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare*

One more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,

That in the course the flow'r may flourish.

People, look east, and sing today—

Love, the Rose, is on the way.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-15

back of bulletin

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

back of bulletin

Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“People, Look East”

in bulletin

3. *Stars, keep the watch! When night is dim,*

One more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather,

Bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today—

Love, the Star, is on the way.

GOSPEL READING

God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.

The Gospel According to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 21:25-36

back of bulletin

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW 244

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

In the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

continued

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

insert

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

*The congregation is invited to greet one another with a gesture of peace, saying these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

“People, Look East”

in bulletin

4. *Angels announce with shouts of mirth*

Him who brings new life to earth.

Set ev’ry peak and valley humming

With the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today—

Love, the Lord, is on the way.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us, that we may meet you in the lives of those with whom we share this journey, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

Following each prayer petition the response will be:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

ADVENT REFLECTION

instrument solo

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through ☩ Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Fling Wide the Door”

ELW 259

DISMISSAL

God is here!

Spread the Word!

Go in peace! Christ is near!

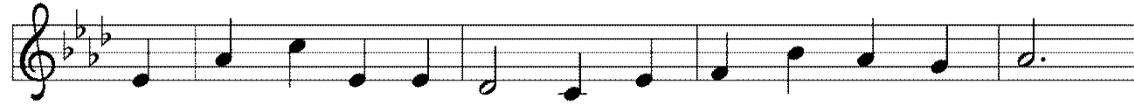
Thanks be to God!

SENDING MUSIC

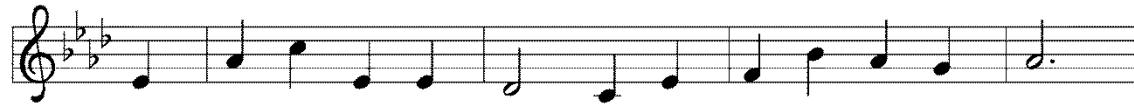


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Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



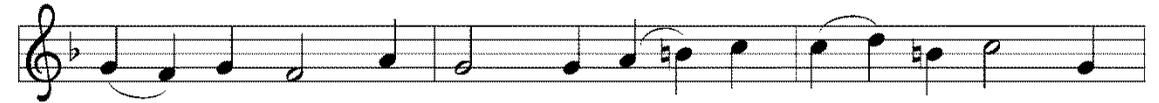
Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Fling Wide the Door



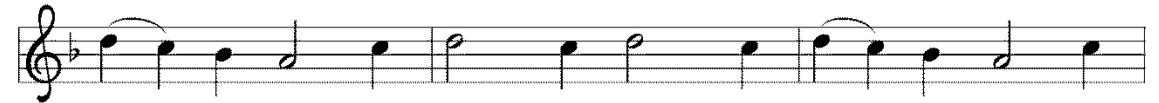
1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!