

Prince of Peace

Evangelical Lutheran Church



When the LORD Comes Near:
He Humbles His People

Advent 2

December 5, 2021



“Learning and sharing the gospel of Christ the Prince of Peace.”

Prince of Peace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME!

Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We pray that the time spent here in God’s house helps you to appreciate how dearly God loves you! He invested the life blood of his one and only Son into your salvation and offers the blessings of that sacrifice to us through Word and Sacrament! May God bless our worship today!

THEME FOR TODAY

People tend to feel a lot of pressure this time of year. We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to meet the Lord: only repentance. You see, Jesus is not someone we need to impress with our good works. Indeed, repentance is the opposite of work. Repentance is the humble admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by him.

INFORMATION

- Our nursery area is located near the entrance area of the church. It is equipped with a television monitor so that you can view and follow the service if you desire to stay with your child in the nursery.
- Restrooms are located through the double doors down the hallway on the right. A changing table for infants and toddlers is located in both restrooms. Additional restrooms are available in the education wing.
- The service is recorded and may be found on our YouTube channel or website.

WORSHIP SERIES

“Advent” is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time, the Lord came into our world as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming.

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR:

Sunday, November 28 th	—	He Humbles Himself
Sunday, December 5th	—	He Humbles His People
Sunday, December 12 th	—	He Humbles His Enemies
Sunday, December 19 th	—	He Lifts Up the Humbled

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN 13

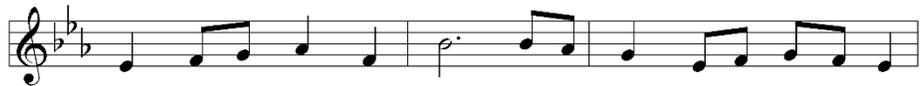
There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

ADVENT

13 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, A
2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; Get
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; The



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, A high - way for our God! The
peo - ple The com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, And he shall right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, The lof - ty
flow'rs of the field they per - ish; Like grass their
feed his flock like a shep - herd, The lambs shall



hills brought low; Make straight all the crook - ed
works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of
gent - ly hold, To pas - tures of peace shall



pla - ces Where the Lord our God may go!
na - tions Shall pass like a dream a - way;
lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt.
Tune: ASCENSION (Irregular) Henry H. Bancroft, b. 1904–1988.

STAND

[M]: The grace of our Lord (✠) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

[C]: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

[M]: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

[C]: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

[M]: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

[C]: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

[M]: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[M]: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us the strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-7b

Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord humbles his people, purifying our hearts so that we might stand on the Last Day.

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵ "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

⁶ "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

Refrain



Let the Lord en - ter; he is the King of glo - ry.

Psalm tone



The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,*
 the world, and all who live in it;
 for he founded it upon the seas*
 and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?*
 Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,*
 he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
 be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
 that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?*
 The LORD strong and mighty,
 the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
 lift them up, you ancient doors,*
 that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?*
 The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

Producing love and humility within us is God's work. He began his good work at our baptism and will carry that work to completion.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4,6)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In grace, God sent his messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare people to meet the Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”



BE SEATED

ADVENT

16 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
 us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
 vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.
 Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

SERMON

Luke 3:1-6

The Way

- I. Full of obstacles
- II. Prepared for salvation

STAND

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

During this on-going pandemic we have refrained from passing the offering plate. You may place your offering into the plate on the table before or after the service. Online giving is also available on our website, www.princeofpeacemartinez.com .

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[M]: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

[C]: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

[M]: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

[C]: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

[M]: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

[C]: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

[M]: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

[C]: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

[M]: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

[M]: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

[C]: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BE SEATED

ADVENT

11 Comfort, Comfort All My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,"
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des -
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -



so says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
 each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger
 ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance
 er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all
 He no more will see or heed. They have suf -
 For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -
 Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -



Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.
 ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er,
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken



That their war - fare now is o - ver."
 In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 And the hills bow down to greet him.
 That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1611-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

STAND

[M]: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]: Amen.

[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.



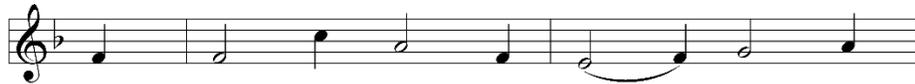
C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

BE SEATED

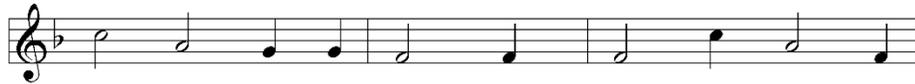
ADVENT

14

Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY	Pastor @Circuit Meeting in Summerville, SC
WEDNESDAY	5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Advent Worship
SUNDAY	8:00 am Worship w/ Lord's Supper 9:15 am – 10:15 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:30 am Annual Voter's meeting

FLOWERS

Joe and Chris Henry have provided the flowers today as an expression of thanks for their grandson, Eyden Brown, son of Justine and Carlos. May God lead us to see the blessings he showers on us through the gift of life each day.



MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Mid-week advent services will be held at 6:30 pm on December 8th, and 15th. This year we meditate on what the Psalms tell us about Christ our King as we eagerly await his triumphant return!

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING – December 19th

Following the 10:30 service on December 19th, we will adopt the 2022 budget, elect the 2022 church council, present the 2021 membership changes, and report on the projects completed in 2021.

BIBLE CLASS

This week we will continue looking at the book of Ecclesiastes. As we enter into what the secular world calls the holiday season, we see that very little of this season actually focuses in on what is at the center of it all – Christ. Instead our focus is on the frenzy of commercialism, the false heaven of friends and family, and the comfort of tradition. Perhaps our focus ought to be on another descriptor of all these things – meaningless – the theme word of the teacher in Ecclesiastes.

POINSETTIAS

Help beautify the church for Christmas! Purchase as many plants as you would like! There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board. Your plant(s) may be taken home following the Christmas day worship service. The cost is \$7.50 per plant.



<u>Operating Offerings</u>		<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Mortgage Progress</u>	
11/28/21	\$ 3,185.00	8:00 am	32	11/28/21	\$ 315.00
Month to Date	\$ 14,523.25	10:30 am	40	Month to Date	\$ 1,210.00
YTD	\$ 175,935.00	Total	72	YTD	\$ 37,495.00
Budget YTD	\$ 194,657.00			Budget YTD	\$ 31,538.00
2020 YTD	\$ 192,173.00	12/1/21	23	2020 YTD	\$ 40,870.00
Weekly needs November Operating Offering				\$	4,237.00
Monthly Mortgage Payment				\$	2,867.00

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