

First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021
Morning Worship - 10:00 A.M.

Watchword for the week: *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.* Luke 21:33

Band Chorales.....Art Sorensen, leader

Welcome and Announcements.....Rev. Ginny Hege Tobiassen

Choral Introit – *Hosanna*.....Edward W. Leinbach,
Salem Composer (1823-1901)

Lighting of The Advent Candle.....Tim and Debby Pyatt

Call To Worship

[Standing]

(A hymn of baptism or faith may be sung.)

In grace God called and chose the people of Israel and established with them a covenant: I will be your God and you will be my people. In that relationship they were to be freed from sin and become a blessing to all. Then God came to us in Jesus Christ and fulfilled that covenant for all people. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, God made for us a new covenant of grace.

We come before you with joy, O God, to claim the promises of your covenant.

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted baptism as the visible means of entry into the new covenant. Baptism is a gift of God. In this sacrament, through grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united with Christ, are cleansed by his saving work, enter into the fellowship of the church, and are called to a life of faith and willing obedience.

Those of you baptized into Christ Jesus, how were you baptized?

Into his death. We were buried with him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glorious power of God Almighty, we too might be raised to live a new life.

(When only adults are baptized, the following sentence is omitted.)

In baptism children also share in the benefits of our Lord's redeeming work through God's grace and the faith of parents, and of the church,

For God's promise is to us and to our children.

(The minister addresses the candidates, parents, and sponsors.)

As you present *yourselves* before God and this congregation, we call upon you to profess your faith.

Do you believe in God as your Creator and loving heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your Comforter and Sustainer, according to the Holy Scriptures?

I do.

(Candidates, parents, and sponsors may profess their faith by means of the Apostles' Creed, the baptismal profession of the early church. The congregation may be invited to join in the Creed as an affirmation of their own baptism.)

Lord, make us one with all your children as we profess our faith, saying:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

*Ancient text reads "catholic," which means "universal."

(The minister addresses the candidates, parents, and sponsors.)

Do you in this faith turn away from sin, evil, and selfishness in your thoughts, words, and actions; and do you intend to participate actively in Christ's church, serving God all the days of your life?

I do.

(When only adults are baptized, the following question for parents and sponsors is omitted.)

Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, do you promise to lead your *children* by prayer, instruction, and example toward that time when *they* can by grace confirm *their* faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and commit *themselves* to the life and work of the church?

I do.

(The minister addresses the congregation.)

Do you receive and affirm *these children* of God as *members* of this congregation, and accept your obligation to love and nurture *them* in Christ?

We do.

(Sitting. One of the following hymns is sung.)

EISENACH (90 A)

An in - fant we pre - sent to thee as thy re - deem - ed prop - er - ty,
 and thee most fer - vent - ly en - treat thy - self this child to con - se - crate
 by bap - tism, and its soul to bless, out of the full - ness of thy grace.

— OR —

CHRISTE SANCTORUM

Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come in vis - i - ta - tion, you are the
 truth, our hope, and our sal - va - tion. Bap - tize with joy and pow'r,
 give, O Dove de - scend - ing, life nev - er end - ing.

We thank you, gracious God, for the gift of water, which you have created and given to us as a sign of life. We recall with gratitude how you led your people from slavery to freedom through the waters of the sea. We rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit at the baptism of your Son in the waters of the Jordan, and we praise you for opening to us the way of eternal life through his death and resurrection. Now send your Spirit upon _____ who *receive(s)* the water of baptism today, so that *they* may become *(a)* living, growing and active *member(s)* of your church, rise to new life, be led and nourished by your word and sacraments, and share in your eternal blessings.

Amen.

(When only adults are baptized, the following is omitted.)

Give to *these parents and sponsors* your wisdom and strength, that with love and understanding *they* may guide to Christian maturity the young *lives* entrusted to *their* care.

Amen.

(The minister baptizes each candidate with a threefold application of water, saying:)

_____, into the death of Jesus I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(Each newly baptized person receives the laying on of hands, symbolizing the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. Parents and sponsors of young children join with the minister in the laying on of hands.)

Now through God's grace and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, you have been brought into the covenant; therefore live, yet not you alone, but Christ live in you; and the life which you live now, live by faith in the Son of God, who loved you and gave his life for you.

(The minister pronounces a text of Scripture for the newly baptized adult.)

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace;

(S39 B)

In the name of Je - sus. A - men.

(If there are no Affirmations of Baptism through Confirmation, Reaffirmation of Faith, or Transfer of Membership, the following hymn is sung here.)

HUS (22 F)

Here in the name of Christ our Lord, the
We wel - come you a - mong us here, with
The God of peace you sanc - ti - fy and

church's Head by all a - dored, with Chris - tian love and
joy that God has brought you near. With heart and hand we
bless you rich - ly from on high, that spir - it, soul, and

pur - pose true, this church in faith em - brac - es you.
pledge our love, and pray Christ's bless - ing from a - bove.
bod - y may re - flect God's pres - ence ev - 'ry day.

Scripture Lessons:Kaky Berry

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Psalms 25: 1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love

remember me,
 for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
 Good and upright is the Lord;
 therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
 for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Hymn - *The Advent of Our God*, page 185.....T. Swabia

The ad-vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer,
 The ev-er-last-ing Son in-car-nate stoops to be,
 All glo-ry to the Son, who comes to set us free,
 come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre-pare.
 takes on him-self the ser-vant's form to set his peo-ple free.
 with Fa-ther, Spir-it, ev-er one through all e-ter-ni-ty.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 21: 25-36.....Rev. Tobiassen

Sermon

1 Come, O long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set your peo - ple free;
2 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
from our fears and sins re - lease us; O, in you our rest shall be.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now your gra - cious king - dom bring.
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part,
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;
dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Reflection on Giving

The offertory provides an opportunity to reflect on the many ways that we can express our gratitude in response to God: with time, treasure, talents, and testimony.

For financial giving online:

- *Use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/> Click the "Give Now" button on any page of the Home Church website. For more information, go to HomeMoravian.org/online-giving. You can make one-time or recurring gifts.*
- *Text HOME to 73256 on your phone.*

Invitation

Anthem: *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*.....Paul Manz (1954) Choir

Doxology

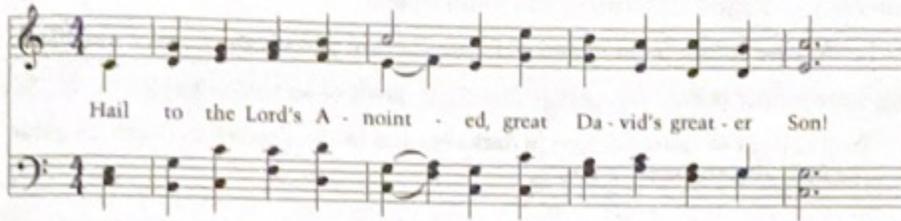
Offertory Prayer

(Standing)

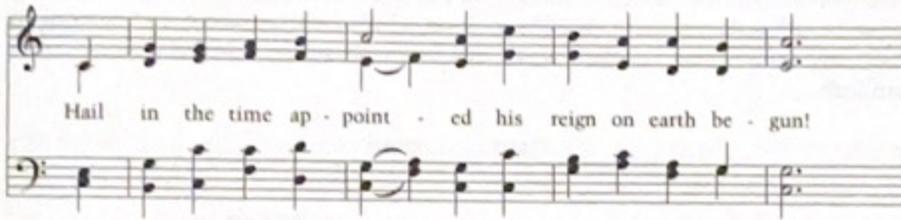
Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, all the earth! The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Rejoice greatly, shout for joy! See, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation.

ST. THEODULPH (151 G)



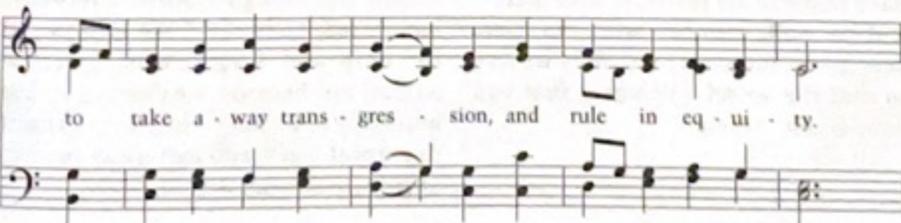
Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!



Hail in the time appointed his reign on earth begun!



He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,



to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

We praise you, the Lord God of Israel! You came to the help of your people and have set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, a descendant of your servant David.

You promised through your holy prophets long ago that you would save us from our enemies, from the power of all those who hate us.

You have shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and have remembered your holy covenant.

With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham, you promised to rescue us from our enemies and allow us to serve you without fear,

So that we might be holy and righteous before you all the days of our life.

By your tender mercy you cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us,

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The voice of the messenger echoes from the desert, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord and to make a straight path on which he may come. Let us confess our sins, so that our crooked ways will be made straight and the rough ways smooth.

[Kneeling or sitting]

(for Advent)

Gracious Lord Jesus, you come to us with the good news of salvation, but too often we fail to notice. You come to us day by day, yet we close the doors of our hearts when it seems convenient to do things our own way. We ignore your presence and your leadership. We have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Forgive us, merciful Lord. May we live so that the world will know that you have come. Amen.

(for Palm Sunday)

Our sovereign Redeemer, we join the people of Jerusalem offering our own shouts of praise and celebration at your coming. Although we welcome you today with the multitude on Palm Sunday, we confess we have also stood with the condemning crowd on Good Friday. Our thoughts, words, and deeds have cried, "Crucify!" We turn to you for help and forgiveness, gracious Savior; not because we deserve it, but because you are forgiving. Save us from our sinful ways, and restore us to a life of loyalty to you. Amen.

Through John the Baptizer, we hear the Lord's promise: Turn away from your sins, and God will forgive your sins.

(Sitting)

TRURO

VOICE: Lift up your heads, you might - y gates; be - hold, the
 CHOIR: Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 ALL: So, come, my Sov - 'reign, en - ter in; let new and

King of Glo - ry waits; the King of Kings is
 tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
 no - bler life be - gin; the Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 guide us on, un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

Eternal God, Ruler of all ages, graciously you come to us in order that we might come to you, through the merit of Jesus Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Help us and all your children to respond to the call of your gospel with faith, love, and hope.

God of faith, you created humanity to serve and praise you; and even when we rebelled against you, you promised to send a Savior to redeem us from our sins:

Strengthen our faith in your saving work through Christ. As you chose the people of Israel to hear the promise of redemption through the prophets, may people today believe in your good will for all that you have made.

God of love, you fulfilled your promise of a redeemer in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Grant us the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may share your love with the sick and the afflicted, with the poor and the homeless, with the victims of injustice and discrimination, and with all who are experiencing times of trouble.

God of hope, you comfort us through our Savior's promise to return in glory at the end of time:

As we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, let us not despair. We long for you to inspire all the nations and peoples of the world to turn to cooperation and nurture, rather than to hatred and destruction.

God of faith, love, and hope, to you and to you alone we pray:

For you are our God, the only God, forever and ever. Amen.

[Standing]

(Here the Hosanna, page 239, or another suitable hymn may be sung.)

Lord, you have kept the promise you made to our ancestors, and have come to the help of your servant people.

You remembered to show mercy to Abraham and Sarah and to all their descendants forever!

We praise you, Lord. You are enthroned in glory, yet you came and continue to come for all who will receive you. We praise you, for you are good, and your mercy endures forever.

To you be glory and power, forever and ever. Amen.

REGENT SQUARE (585 D)

ALL

Praise to you, O Lord, we ren - der for your love in Je - sus shown,

may that love, so strong and ten - der, bind us fast to him a - lone,

CHOIR ALL

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, gath - er us a - mong your own.

(Where indicated in the liturgy, we will sing Hosanna, page 239. The choir will sing the first part, and the congregation will sing the second.)

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude - *Prepare the Way, O Zion!*.....Swedish Melody, XVII Century
setting by G. Winston Cassler (1960)