

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
229 South Broad Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
570-398-1676

Sunday, November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent



### **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

*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.*

### **SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

#### **Light One candle to Watch for Messiah 240**

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah:*

*Let the light banish darkness.*

*He shall bring salvation to Israel,*

*God fulfills the promise*

#### **Litany for Advent:**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and bring your light to dwell among us.**

P: For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given.

**C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and make us run to you with the eagerness of children.**

P: A voice cries in the wilderness, prepare you the way of the Lord.

**C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and grant us the courage to raise our voices for those who are voiceless.**

P: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

**C: Stir up your power, O Lord so that we may shine the light of your glory to all we encounter.**

P: Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?

**C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and open our ears to the cries of the poor and oppressed among us.**

P: They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

**C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and grant us strength and endurance for the race we must run.**

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the Earth.

**C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and open our hearts to sing your praise in all that we say and do.**

P: And He will come to Zion as redeemer, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression.

**C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and turn us from transgression to redemption. Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.**

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, that we may live as light in the darkness.

**C: The Spirit of the Lord, God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.**

P: Stir up your power, O Lord that we may feel your spirit resting upon us; and grant us a heart for the poor.

**C: For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.**

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, that we may help bring about a new earth in your name.

**C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen**

**GATHERING** The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things  
**Amen**

P. Let us confess our sins 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.**

P: 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.**

**GATHERING SONG: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* 244**

**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also, with you.**

**KYRIE P. 139**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*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 God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*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.*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142**

*Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

*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.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* p, 257**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

A: God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities (*local, state, and national government officials may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters (*especially*), for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of relationships, we are grateful for the opportunities you provide for us to communicate and to work with our mission partners in the Ansbach-Wurzburg Kirchenkreis in Germany.

Bless their leaders and all of their people as they do your work in their corner of the world. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.

**Amen.**

## **Our Offering of Music**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Celtic Advent Song*

## **OFFERTORY**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: 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 as we meet you in this simple meal,

through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144** *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

**Dialogue**

**Preface by the Pastor**

**Holy Holy Holy**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,

Our Salvation and our Hope,

We praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos cruelty and despair,

You sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages

Your Son Jesus came to bring us your love

And to heal the entire suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.  
Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith, increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Come to Christ's banquet.  
Feast on God's gift of grace.

#### **COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God You Take Away p.146***

**HYMNS TO SING QUIETLY, HUM OR MEDITATE ON DURING COMMUNION**

248 People Look East

254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

263 Savior of the Nations, Come

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me***

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

**WE GATHER IN PRAYER**

We gather in prayer for Mary Ellen Dougherty as she goes to Fox Chase hospital this week for surgery. We welcome the congregation to join together in prayer and the laying on of hands.

**SENDING SONG: *Fling Wide the Door p.259***

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***Announcements***

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ”.

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Luke Antolick, Dave Barner, Darlene Bilby, Stan Breon, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, Joyce Hudson, Steve Keller and sister Janet Grazier, Bud Long, Mary Miller, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Ruth Nice, Penny Parks-Dean, Jean Ann Snyder, Shane Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Loudon Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special Thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers –Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher – Gina Johnson; Teller –Deb Heydrich; Children’s Church—Holly Dittmer; Bulletin Sponsor – Gary and Gina Johnson;

Next week's helpers: Lector – Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers – Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher – Lon Myers; Teller – Dawn McCloskey; Bulletin Sponsor – Cozette Stoltzfus ; Flowers –Nancy Wolfe ; Children's Church—Pam Wehler.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored in memory of loved ones by Bob and Phyllis Moriarity.

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of our parents by the Rev. Dr. Aucker and Mrs. Aucker.

The 2022 Flower calendar has been posted on the upstairs bulletin board. The Sanctuary Candle sign-up sheet and the Bulletin Sponsors sheets are in the downstairs hallway

The Lutheran Church Women's Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran.

Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

This past week Mr. Mark Cooley from Cooley **Organ** Company came to replace leather and do other work on the **pipe organ**. That cost us \$1,199. Mr. Cooley has worked on our organ for many years. Originally, he worked for the Moller Company that built our **pipe organ**. Mr. Colley believes the last time he came to do any major cleaning of the organ was in 2015. Imagine what your attic or cellar would look like after six years of dust and cobwebs. That's our **organ**. He did what he could, but we need an extreme cleaning where some ranks (pipes) would be removed so there is access to other ranks for cleaning and repairs. To do a complete cleaning and repairs which may take 5-6 days with his two helpers would cost \$4400-\$5000. We were really blessed as we have received \$2900 in Fall Cash Sunday offerings. If anyone would like to make an end-of-the-year donation to completely clean and repair the **Moller pipe organ**, your gifts would be appreciated. Note on your check "**organ repairs.**"

"DAVID" playing at Sight and Sound !! August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. Payments may be made during the course of the year! Thank You! Joyce Braucht.

Youth Ministry -- **Christmas in the Grove at Knoebels**

Saturday, December 4, leaving 3:30 pm. We will stop for dinner along the way to Knoebels' Grove where we will drive through a spectacular Christmas light display. Leave Cathy Eisner or Pastor know if you are going.

The **angels** are on the tree in the Tower for the **Toys-For-Tots program**.

We invite you to pick an angel and donate the gift to community children in need.

The gifts need to be back at the church office by Sunday Dec 5. All unwrapped. Please attach the angel to the gift so we know which child the gift is for. Any questions please contact Lynette Yost 570-419-5620 or Carol Yost 570-295-6335.

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, November 28, 2021

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

*1st Sunday of Advent*

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Monday, November 29, 2021

10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Ephesians chapter 2:21 onward. Chapter 3 in the book

7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship at Trinity Episcopal Church

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Friday, December 3, 2021

5:00 p.m. set up for Bazaar

Saturday, December 4, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Bazaar

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

3:00 p.m. Youth leave for Christmas in the Grove

Sunday, December 5, 2021

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

Unwrapped Toys for Tots with Angel attached DUE

2:00 p.m. Catechism

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Upcoming!

Sunday, December 12 – Poinsettia Orders and Money DUE

Friday, December 17 – Food Distribution 9-1

Sunday, December 19 – Gary Johnson recruiting readers for Christmas Play

Christmas Dinner - bring a covered dish to share. Meat provided.

Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. – Holly Dittmer recruiting for a children's Christmas presentation

### Christmas Eve Worship – December 24

4:00 p.m. – Worship at St. John Lutheran

7:00 p.m. – Worship at St. James Lutheran

10:00 p.m. – Special Music at St. John Lutheran

10:30 p.m. – Worship at St. John Lutheran



