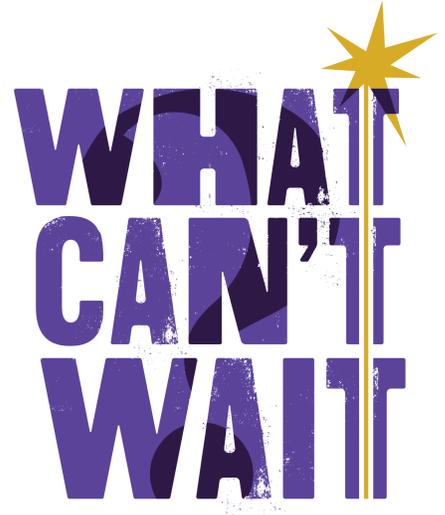


November 27, 2022 First Sunday of Advent

You are invited to read responses found in **bold
*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit*

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!



we GATHER here

Prelude — “Soon and Very Soon” by Andrae’ Crouch

Sung by the Trio

Words of Welcome

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God’s name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Gracious God,

**You paint a picture of a better world—
A world of peace and joy, of equality and grace.
But we turn our heads and close our eyes,
Afraid that you might want us to help.
You ask us to be brave, and we are complacent.
You ask us to speak out, but instead we stay quiet.
You ask us to listen, and we assume we are the
experts.**

**You lead with love, and we wait on the
sidelines.**

**Forgive us for always being ten steps
behind you.**

**Forgive us for all the ways we are works
in progress.**

**Fill our hearts with a hope that won’t let
go.**

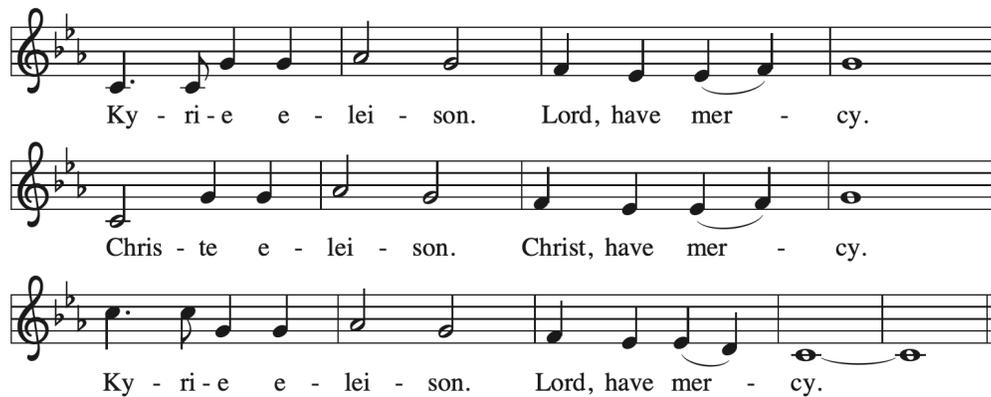
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Go forth boldly in the assurance that your
sins are forgiven
in the name of the one who is coming and is
already here,

✠ Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***Kyrie** — from *All Creation Sings*, Setting Twelve



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

***Advent Prayer Litany**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Hope is gravity for the broken—

Pulling us up.

Hope is manna in the wilderness

When we want to give up.

Hope is seeing stars in the city

When we forget the sky is there.

Hope is the anthem of faith

And the reason we're here.

So come to this place with your hopes and your fears,

For the God of new life is drawing near.

Let us worship Holy God.

Amen.

***Advent Candle Lighting Litany: Hope Can't Wait**

Voice A: I will wait for coffee to brew.

Voice B: I will wait for traffic to clear.

Voice A: I will wait for fruit to ripen.

Voice B: I will wait for flowers to grow.

Voice A: I will wait for seasons to change.

Voice B: I will wait for the sun to rise.

Voice A: I will wait for you to say sorry.

Voice B: I will wait for the doctor to call.

Voice A: I will wait for the weekend to arrive.

Voice B: I will wait for my baby's first words.

Voice A: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

Voice B: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for hope.

Voice A: I cannot wait for hope, because I want to live with hope—today and every day.

Voice B: I want to roll my sleeves up and get to work—living, serving, giving, and transforming with the hope of a better day.

Voice A: So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and as a prayer that we might stop waiting and start living, stop watching and start moving.

Voice B: May the light of this candle burn inside us this week—inspiring hope and action for God's promised day. Amen.

All sing "Wait for the Lord" (hymn no. 262) while the Advent wreath is lit:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the book of Isaiah — Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

Psalm 122 — *Sung all together in unison*

I was glad when they | said to me,
"Let us go to the house | of the Lord."
Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;
to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the
Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name |
of the Lord.
For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
"May they pros- | per who love you.
Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.
For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.
Because of the house of the | Lord our God,
I will seek to | do you good."

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans — Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

*Gospel Acclamation — hymn no. 257, stanza 1

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

***Gospel — Matthew 24:36-44**

The Gospel of Matthew, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “God’s Promised Day (Hope) Can’t Wait”

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn — no. 711**

“O Day of Peace”

***Affirmation of Faith — The Apostles’ Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,
and he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

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

***Prayers of Intercession**

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the church cries to you. Strengthen the church in the land of Jesus’ birth. Wherever Christians gather, empower them to proclaim love and defy the powers of sin and evil. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your creation cries to you. Sustain the balance of all living things. Protect the earth from drought, bitter cold, eroding coastlines, and fires and floods, that the earth may flourish. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the nations cry to you. Bring justice to the marginalized, courage to peacemakers, wisdom to leaders, and hope to generations who have only known conflict, oppression, or poverty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your people cry to you. Comfort those separated from loved ones by distance, estrangement, or loss. Help us as we care for others and rely on others' care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, this congregation cries to you. Guide our worship, service, and outreach, that our hearts and hands may be opened in generosity toward others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, we remember those whose days on earth have ended, who live now in your eternal love. Remind us of their faithful witness, that their example might inspire our daily living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Offering

Music at the Offering

"Let Us Break Bread Together" African American Spiritual Sung by the trio

we SHARE the meal

*The Great Thanksgiving & Preface

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus — from *Setting Twelve, All Creation Sings*

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer**

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.

In gratitude to God, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

***Invitation to Communion**

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.
All are welcome here at Christ's Table.
God can't wait to meet you here.

Distribution of Communion

Canticle — hymn no. 250
Hymn — no. 244

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”
“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Communion Blessing and Prayer

God of abundance,
we give you thanks that in this holy meal
you have invited us to feast with you and one another.
May the taste of your love remain with us,
and may our words and our work in your name
invite others into your bountiful grace.
Send us from your table to proclaim your presence,
even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

we DEPART for service

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 246

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”

***Blessing & Dismissal**

What can't wait? **Hope for a better day.**
What can't wait? **Peace and repentance, among and within us.**
What can't wait? **Joy and delight! Our cup runs over.**
What can't wait? **Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, and love for creation.**
God is waiting, and God is ready. **Starting here and now—let us worship Holy God. Amen.**
Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Music Leader: Sharon Malm
Audio/Video: Brett Peterson

Greeter: Cindy Nadeau
Reader: John Malm
Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, John Nadeau

Communion Preparers: Mary Spear
Communion Servers: John Malm, John Holte,
Mary Spear
Bread: Diane Stewart, Shirb Sylvester (GF)

Announcements

- **Devotional booklets** will continue to be available in the Heartbeat this coming week. Please contact Angela if you would like a black and white version printed for you - now available!
- Please attend **our congregation meetings** on Dec. 4 and Jan. 29. Your participation is very important!
- **Advent Midweek Worship:** There will be four midweek services during Advent - beginning this Wednesday, November 30 - featuring *Holden Evening Prayer* by Marty Haugen each week at 7:00 p.m.
- **Fellowship refreshments** today will be furnished and served by the Fellowship Committee.
- **The Giving Tree:** The Altar Guild invites you to contribute to the Giving Tree. This money will be directed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This is a congregational fund that supports people in need. The Giving Tree is located in the Gathering Space during the Advent Season. To make a donation take an envelope off the Giving Tree. Fill out the enclosed card indicating the person or persons you are honoring or remembering with your contribution. Place the card and your donation in the envelope. Place the envelope in the offering plate or take it to the church office. Lastly, place a star on the tree to indicate your donation. Thank you for your contributions.
- **With your generosity** we raised \$1,220.00 for First Lutheran Church and made the 1st Annual Soup/Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction a huge success! The winner of the 1st Annual Soup/Chili Cook-Off was Pat Pehrson! We look forward to doing this event next year!
- Today we remember **Ann Widness** whose untimely death occurred this past September. Several years ago she designed and wove our Advent paraments. Her death is a great loss. However, the beauty of her faith and artistic talent shines through the paraments and enhances our journey through Advent.

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Joann Muesing, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth and Gene Roemhildt.
- We pray for Allen Storkson, Shanon Nowell's father-in-law. He is hospitalized and recently diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia.
- We pray for Dan Polzin who is mourning the loss of his father Ken.
- We pray for the family of Grant Block who passed away on November 16. Arrangements are still pending.
- We pray for all those mourning the recent loss of loved ones.
- We pray for peace around the world; for all affected by natural disasters; for all those affected by the Club Q shooting in Colorado Springs; and, for healing and wholeness in the lives of all who are ill.

Holiday Grocery Vouchers

The St. Peter Area Food shelf and the St. Peter Area Ministerial Association will again be providing grocery vouchers to needy families in our community over the holiday season.

**Please make checks payable to First Lutheran with
“Holiday Voucher” written in the memo line by
December 15.**

