



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1254 S. Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166

COMMUNION WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Welcome and Announcements

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross ☩ may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

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

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

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.**

HYMN #436 *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

ADVENT CANDLES

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In Commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language – the *coming* of Christ – because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

Candle of hope is lit.

HYMN #257 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs. 1

ADVENT PRAYER

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

WORD

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

“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, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DRAWN TO THE WORD *The Coming of the Son of Man*

HYMN #259 *Fling Wide the Door*

APOSTLES' CREED

We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

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 into hell.

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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

...Hear us, O God. / **Your mercy is great.**

The petitions conclude: ...in the name of Jesus. / Amen

THE PEACE *Assembly is invited to share God's peace.*

C O M M U N I O N

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

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.

5:00/8:00 **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC** Jill Sousek, piano

10:30 **COMMUNION VOLUNTARY** *Light of Peace ~ Zion Choir*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us
to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

S E N D I N G

BENEDICTION

HYMN #244 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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A Little Bit More... 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.

† *Welcoming All, Growing, and Sharing God's Love* †



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