

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH – December 19th, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER-FEBRUARY WORSHIP 8:30AM

### PRELUDE BY SHIRLEY BERGMAN AND DAWN QUACKENBUSH

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ADVENT WREATH LITANY

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

**By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Instill in us a yearning to seek your presence in each other.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Quicken us to help all people feel welcomed and supported.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Rouse us to care for one another, friend and stranger alike.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Inspire us to be your handiwork in the world.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Fill us with a holy hunger for a just world where all are fed.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**The days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

Stir up in our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your Son.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come!**

**ADVENT SONG-- *We Light a Candle* by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan(On bulletin insert-- sing vs. 1—4)**

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

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.

*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.**

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.**

### **OPENING HYMN: SBH 5 Come, thou Long Expected Jesus**

Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

### **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**

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace**

**and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*\*Please be seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**First Reading:** Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

2But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

3Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

4And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

5aand he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** Luke 1:46b-55

46b My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

47 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**48 for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

49 you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

**50 You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

51 You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**52 casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

53 You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

**54 You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

55 the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 10 And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*\*Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia! Lord and savior: open now your saving word.  
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.  
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

**Gospel: Luke 1:39-55**

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

39In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

50His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

51He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

53he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

54He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

55according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*\*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 723 Canticle of the Turning

\*Please stand as you are able.

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

#### Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. Refrain

3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. Refrain

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. Refrain

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Watch over all who are dealing with the effects of natural disasters, especially the recent tornadoes and windstorms. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need, especially Stephanie Winklepleck, Dennis Bushkofsky, and Betsy Norland. Grant strength and endurance to all health care workers as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to worsen. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for

those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.**

*\*Please remain standing as you are able.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

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,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*\*Please be seated.*

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

### **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

*\*Please be seated.*

### **CLOSING HYMN: ELW 264 Prepare the Royal Highway**

1 Prepare the royal highway;

the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

*Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

**DISMISSAL BY CHILDREN**

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

And have fun doing it.

**We will! Amen!**

**POSTLUDE by Shirley Bergman**

## THIS WEEK AT ALC

**Sunday, Dec 19th:**

**8:30am** Worship and communion

**Tuesday December 21st:**

10am -12pm Prayer Shawl

7pm blue Christmas Service at FPC in Jesup

**Wednesday December 22nd:** 5:30pm Advent Service at Jubilee

**Friday December 24th:**

4:30pm Christmas Even Service at **ALC**

7pm Christmas Eve Service at **Jubilee**

**Saturday December 25th:**

9:00am Christmas Day Service at Jubilee

**Sunday December 26th:**

**8:30am** Worship– Lessons and Carols

## BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance: 11/28/21–17

Current: 17,371.55

Offering: 11/28/21

Current: 1,795

Benevolence: 82

Improvement: 135

Non Synod Benevolence: 250

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday Worship time is 8:30 AM December 5-February 27.**

**Christmas Eve worship service: The Christmas Eve service at ALC will be at 4:30pm on Friday Dec 24.** You are also welcome to go to the Christmas Eve service at Jubilee at 7:00pm on Friday, Dec 24 and the Christmas Day service at Jubilee at 9:00am on Saturday, Dec 25.

**Advent services at Jubilee:** All are invited to attend midweek Advent services at Jubilee, at 5:30pm on the Wednesdays in Advent. The services are followed by a

soup supper.

**ALC Christmas offering designation:** All ALC Christmas offering envelopes and offerings will be split 50/50 between **Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach** (which funds an ELCA Lutheran Chaplain at the University of Iowa Hospital) and ALC member **Stephanie Winkelpleck** (to help with her medical expenses for Acute Myeloid Leukemia). **Caring Bridge** link:  
<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/stephaniewittwinkelpleck>.

**Blue Christmas service Dec. 21 at Presbyterian Church in Jesup**– The holidays can be a difficult time for anyone who has suffered loss or hurt. The Jesup Ministerial Association recognizes that Christmas can be a harsh reminder of how things used to be. All are welcome to join us as we seek God's love and care in the midst of the sadness, to set aside a time for quiet, healing reflection. Please join us for an Ecumenical and Community Blue Christmas Service on Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Jesup.

**Advent resources from ELCA World Hunger:** Advent calendars and study guides from ELCA World Hunger are available in the narthex.

**Financial gifts & designations:** December is a great time to reflect on your regular giving, and to consider increasing the amount that you regularly give to God through the church, as well as how much you designate to various ministries. Anything designated "Mission Support (Benevolence)" goes to support the ministries of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Anything designated "Improvement" goes to support property upkeep and improvements to the church building and parsonage. Anything designated "Current," as well as anything undesignated, goes to support the general operating expenses of the congregation. Thank you for your continued generosity in all of these areas!

**ALC Committees:** Council will be looking to fill committee openings for 2022. Please consider sharing your time and talents as we try to establish a three-year rotation. We currently have openings on **Property, Technology, Hospitality, Worship and Music**.

**Prayer Shawl** meets Tuesdays, 10 AM - noon. Enjoy fellowship while knitting and crocheting. New members welcome. The shawls and blankets are shared with those who are ill, grieving, and in need of comfort.

**Quilting for Lutheran World Relief: We will take a break during December.** Please talk to Sharon McAtee, Kaye Jones, or Mary Adams if you are interested in this ministry. Our next work day is January 10, 2022 at 1:00 PM. We gather every second and fourth Monday to cut, pin, sew, iron, and tie quilts. Come join us!

**Sheets for Quilting needed:** Sheets for quilt backs can be put in the back pew. Thanks for your help.

**Thank you from the NE IA Synodical Women's Organization:** Each year you bless thousands of families with quilts and kits. Totals for the Northeast IA Synod: Quilts-**4536**, Baby-**893**, School-**4399**, Personal-**1976**, Fabric-**105**, blankets-**65**. Thanks to you and all your awesome gals, Jesus loves you! *Lea Norlinger, Mason City, IA (NE IA SWO board & LWR Contact).*

**Mobile Giving App** If you give your regular contributions using Give Plus App, we have been notified that they will stop supporting the Give Plus app as of January 31, 2022. You should download the new app called Vanco Mobile to continue using. Note: your username and password will remain the same, and any recurring payments you have scheduled will continue in the new app. **If you do not currently have anything setup, now is a great time to download the Vanco Mobile app and start your recurring giving today.**