

# FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 28, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska

Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

PRELUDE: "Day by Day", "I Saw the Light",

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 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.**

## ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING LITANY

Reader: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, unexpected liberator of the people, vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, a new name for God.

**C: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.**

Reader: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

*The candle is lit during singing of the Advent Hymn*

### ADVENT HYMN: "We Light the Advent Candles"

**1. We light the Advent candles against the winter night, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light.**

**2. The first one will remind us that Christ will soon return. We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn. We light it in the darkness and watch it gleam and burn.**

"We Light the Advent Candles," words by Gracia Grindal. ©1999 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission. CCLI License #2497574.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light. [Silence.] God of Love and Light,

**C: We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be. We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark. We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated and judgmental. We inflame others**

**by lashing out in anger. We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt. We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely. Forgive us Jesus, the Everlasting Light. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel. Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness and healing. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

P: God is light, and in God there is no darkness as all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

**C: Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

**C: 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.**

#### FIRST READING – Jeremiah 33:14-16

<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."

#### SECOND READING – I Thessalonians 3:9-13

<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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(Noisy offering is taken at this time.)*  
*(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)*

#### HOLY GOSPEL – Luke 21:25-36

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."

## HYMN OF THE DAY: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me, Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother, in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!**

"Let There Be Peace On Earth," words and music by Jill Jackson/Sy Miller. ©1955. Renewed 1983 Jan - Lee Music. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

**C: God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts our ourselves, our time and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**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 PEOPLE

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

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.

**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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN "A Choral Benediction"

**May the light of God shine on us today. May the light of God shine on us today. May it show us where to travel, lead us back if we should stray; May the light of God shine on us today. May the love of God live in us today. May the love of God live in us today. May the warmth we feel within us, show in all we do and say. May the love of God live in us today. May the peace of God be with us today. May the peace of God be with us today. May it guide us and protect us as we go our separate ways, May the peace of God be with us. May the love of God live in us. May the light of God shine on us today. And every day!!!**

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## POSTLUDE: "Do, Lord!: Psalm 27"

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Dustin Fritch, Sara Miley and our shut-ins.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Dora Schoen (Nov 28) Lisa Sanders, Michelle Scott, Dana Steinacher (Nov 29)

**ELCA WOMEN CHRISTMAS PARTY** all women are welcome December 9th here at the church. Soup will be served at 6:00. Come join us for a fun night of fellowship with a \$10 grab gift. Hope to see you there.

**THRIVENT CARD** We aren't going to have a caring and sharing tree this year., instead we will be using a Thrivent card to help three families for Christmas.

**CHILI COOK-OFF** for Carol Joy Holling Camp Monday, November 29 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Zion Lutheran Church of Pickrell Parish Hall

**COOKIES, COCOA, & HELPERS** are needed for the stone Barn Christmas on Dec. 5 Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you can help.

**MERCY MEALS** Will be held December 6 from 4-6 pm at Odell Community Building. Sign up sheet will be in the back of church.

**THANK YOU BELOVED/CONFIRMATION YOUTH:** for taking time to remember us Veterans with the Veterans Day cards you made. It really made our day to receive them. From the local Veterans.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** to everyone who brought in food for the Thanksgiving Food Drive Challenge this year. Your donations to this ministry are much appreciated! We will let you know the count of food items in coming bulletins/newsletter.

**SUNMART RECEIPTS:** Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called "Support Our Schools and Churches." All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our goal of \$150,000 two times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about \$65,000.00. You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE:** You can find our church website at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com) or by scanning this QR code:



**BULLETIN ITEMS** are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call or text Britan Meints at (308)-730-0599 or email her at [britanrace@gmail.com](mailto:britanrace@gmail.com)

**BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND** on our website, [filleylutheranchurch.com](http://filleylutheranchurch.com). Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Britan at [britanrace@gmail.com](mailto:britanrace@gmail.com) with your email address.

**COMING UP:**

Every Wednesday – BeLoved/Confirmation, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (no classes on, Dec. 22, Dec. 29)  
Monday, Dec. 6 – Mercy Meals

**WORSHIP HELPERS:**

Transitional Minister – Pastor Jonathan Jensen, 402-768-3665  
Council – Dave Norton-President (402-520-3555), Virgil Jobman-Vice President (402-310-6339),  
Carol Frerichs-Secretary (402-223-7919), Brenda Hippen-Treasurer (402-688-4466), Linda Searcey-  
at large (402-223-8237).  
Reader: Next Week  
PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen  
Accompanist: Sandy Mahler  
Fellowship Sandy Flessner Next Week Brenda Hippen