

T. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

1417 Parkview Drive PO Box 44 Kewaskum, Wisconsin www.stlucaswels.org

Third Sunday in Advent

December 16th & 17th, 2023

The Season

The Church Year begins with the season of Advent, which means "coming." We see that the King shall come. We see why the King came on the first time and why he shall come again on Judgment Day. We also cherish the way our King comes to us today in Word and sacrament, establishing his reign in our hearts.

The Sunday

Throughout history, God has raised up called servants—like John the Baptist—to preach a message of repentance. This repentance is central to our preparation for the Lord's coming. Without repentance, the King's coming only terrifies. But all those who believe and repent look forward to the coming of the King and the consummation of his everlasting kingdom.

Prayer before Worship

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

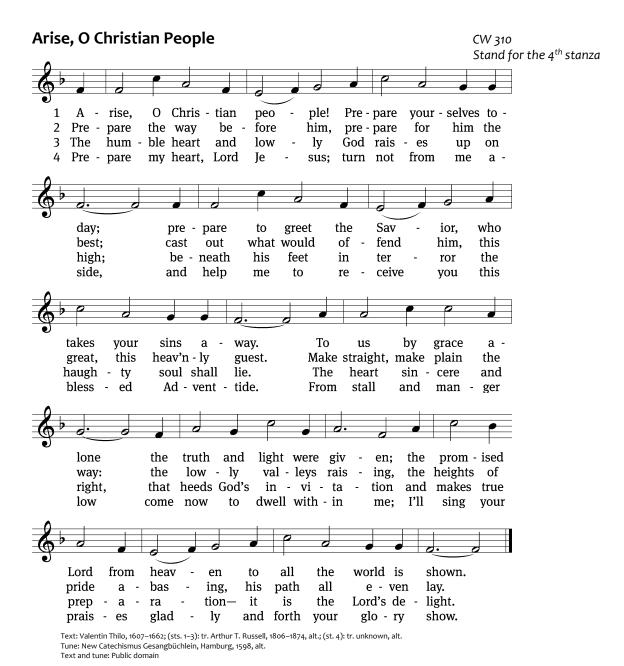
Thank you, loving Lord, for cleansing me of my sins and adopting me into your family through the miracle of Holy Baptism. As I worship today, help me remember what my baptism means to me. Lead me to feel genuine sorrow for my sins and empower me to put down the sinful nature that still lives in me. Lift me up as I hear your promise of forgiveness and give me strength to live a life pleasing to you.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Dennis Lemke Organist: Laura Schulz

Ushers: Chris Peters (6 pm Saturday)

Matthew Stoltz (8 am Sunday) Steve Wolter (10:30 am Sunday)



In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.



The Word

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. ¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD;

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Savior-King proclaims good news of great joy for all those who are brokenhearted.

Isaiah 61:1-3,10-11

my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

"For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Remember Your Mercy, O LORD

Psalm 130B

Sung responsively between Pastor & congregation



Tone



Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;

Lord, / hear my voice.

Let your ears be at- / tentive

to my cry for / mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,

and in his word I / put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,

more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,

for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel

from / all their sins.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be-/ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Tune: Michael Joncas

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 The promises of the coming King let us live with joy, regardless of present circumstances.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

A flickering candle sheds its light
 In hope of dawn's victorious might,
 And backward scurries cowardly
 Night reminded of the morning.
 Watch, watch, for Christ is near,
 The promised son of God most dear.
 Hope, hope, his light will clear
 The shades of death and sin.

to tune of What Child is This

3. Though night is long, do not grow weak,
To all who suffer, clearly speak
"The Lord, the Savior whom you seek,
Behold, is come among you!"
Watch, watch, for Christ is near,
The promised son of God most dear.
Hope, hope, his light will clear
The shades of death and sin.

Text: Mark W. Oldenburg, 2008, Birnamwood Publication (ASCAP), a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Tune: GREENSLEEVES, 8 8 8 7 with refrain, English melody, 16th C.; harm. By John Stainer, 1840-1901. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703484

Stand



Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

John was only a witness to the light. Jesus is the light who gives life and perfect joy.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

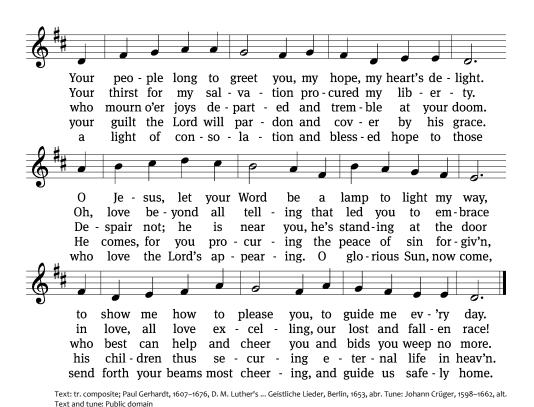
Be seated

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324



- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a-right?
- 2 Love caused your in car na tion; love brought you down to me.
- 3 Re joice, then, you sad-heart ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,
- 4 Sin's debt, that fear ful bur den, let not your souls dis tress;
- 5 He comes to judge the na tions, a ter ror to his foes,



Sermon

I Thessalonians 5:16-24 Is Your Shopping List Complete?

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... here name the person and the cause of the petition.] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

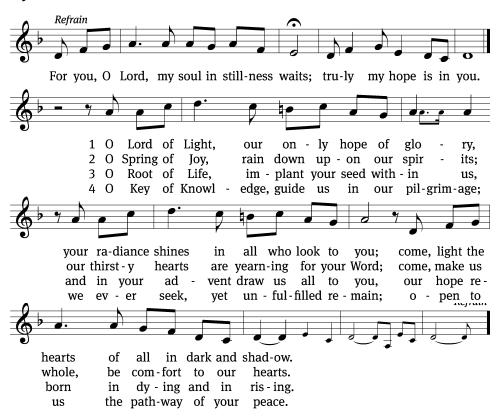
Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Offering God's people offer their first and best to the Lord in response to the Lord's blessings to them. The offering is gathered in a basket in the church entrance before or after the service. If you prefer to give electronically, you may scan this graphic to access www.stlucaswels.org/donate.



Hymn CW 325



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text and tune: © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703484

Stand

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.



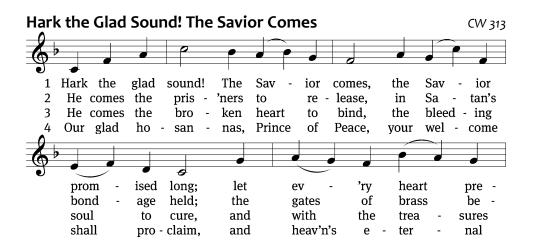
Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.





Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt. Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting Eight (German) from Christian Worship

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Announcements

Call Return Letter - Mark Hesse:

Dear St. Lucas Family,

Our gracious God has seen fit to accomplish his work through his people. I am honored by the role he has given me to serve in his kingdom, even more so when new opportunities arise. I appreciate all the support, prayers, and encouragement that you have shown me. After prayerful consideration, I have decided to decline the call to serve at St. Luke's Lutheran School in Vassar, MI. It appears to me that it is the Lord's will that I remain in Kewaskum to continue his work here.

Please pray for the congregation of St. Luke's, and I pray that our gracious God will send the worker they need as well.

In Christ, Mark A. Hesse

The Giving Tree: Christmas is a joyous time of year when we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus gave his life for us as the ultimate sacrifice and the ultimate gift. Nothing we could do could possibly compare, but during this season of giving we find joy in giving gifts to others. The Giving Tree provides us with an opportunity to give gifts to families in need this Christmas. We have two trees, one located just to the left of the door as you are entering the church and one just outside the school office. Each tree is decorated with paper ornaments that have gift ideas printed on the back. All you need to do is take an ornament from the tree, as many as you wish to take, purchase one or more gifts, then return the wrapped gift(S) to either church or school along with the corresponding ornament. Make sure the ornament is returned with the gift to ensure it goes to the correct family. Please return the gifts by no later than Monday December 18th, so all gifts can be delivered before Christmas.

New Bible Study Topic in the New Year: Starting Sunday, January 7, we will discuss the topic "Burden Bearing." Paul wrote, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). The Burden Bearing Bible study provides encouragement, instruction, and practical examples to help Christians bear one another's burdens. On December 3 we will conclude the study of the Letter of James. December 10 & 17 we will discuss different aspects of the Advent season.

Join KML in Helping Families in Need: Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School is partnering with Coffeeville Company to raise money for KML's 12 Days of Christmas fundraiser to support families in need. This year we are raising money for the Gerlach, Hovorka, Lindenberg, and Praefke families. Learn more about the families, order coffee, or make a donation at kmlhs.org/12days. Deadline to Make a Monetary Donation: December 31, 2023.

KML Shrek the Musical Auditions: Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School's theatre department is holding auditions for the role of "Young Fiona" in the winter production of Shrek the Musical. Auditions are open to girls in grades 5-8 in the KML Federation and will be submitted by video. The deadline for submissions is **December 17**, 2023. For full audition information, please visit kmlhs.org/theatre.

Celebrating God's Blessings This Week:

BIRTHDAYS

Brad Homuth – 12/19 Adeline Shier – 12/19 Nora Maxwell – 12/19 Ranen Enright – 12/22



CALENDAR

Readings for December 17th - December 24th

Sunday

Isaiah 33:1-24 Revelation 5:1-14

Worship 8 am

Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Hour 9:15 am **Worship 10:30 am**

Monday

Isaiah 34:1, 2, 8-35:10 Micah 1:1-7:20 Revelation 6:1-17

Deadline for turning in giving tree gifts

Tuesday

Isaiah 40:1-17 Revelation 7:1-17

Bible study 6:30 pm

Wednesday

Isaiah 40:18-41:10 Revelation 8:1-13

Catechism Instruction for 6th-8th Graders 3:30pm

Advent Service 6:30 pm

Thursday

Isaiah 42:1-25 Revelation 9:1-12

Fuel for Moms 7:45 am Bible Study 10 am

Friday

Isaiah 43:1-24

Revelation 9:13-10:11

day Saturday

Isaiah 43:25-44:20 Revelation 11:1-19

Piano Recital 10:30 am

Worship w/Communion 6 pm - Advent 4

Sunday

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 44:21-45:13; 20-25

Daniel 10:1-12:13

Isaiah 48:1-22

Revelation 12:1-17

Worship w/Communion

8 am - Advent 4

Worship 10:30 am -Elementary School

Worship 4 pm - Sunday School

Worship 10 pm -Candlelight Service

Ushers for Dec. 23rd & 24th

<u>Saturday 12/23</u>

Beyer (6 pm)

Sunday 12/24

Schacht/Strack (8 am)

Ushers for Dec. 30th & 31st

Saturday 12/23

Butzke (6 pm)

Sunday 12/24

Kempf (8 am) Koch (10:30 am) St. Lucas Lutheran Church strives to be a congregation that is always inviting, always edifying, and always equipping. www.stlucaswels.org

Contact Information

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