

WEST IDA IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

159 Years of Serving Together

Sunday, November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

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.

Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L) In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C) **Amen.**

L) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Who alone does wonders, Who lifts up the lowly, Who fills the hungry with good things.

C) **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept.

L) God for whom we wait,

C) **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.**

L) 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.

C) **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn – "Rejoice Rejoice Believers" #244

Greeting

L) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C) **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

L) 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.

C) **Amen.**

Children's Message

The Readings for This Day

AM) **The first reading is from Jeremiah 33:14-16**

AM ¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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."

AM) Word of God, word of life.
C) **Thanks be to God.**

AM) The responsive reading today is Psalm 25:1-10

AM) ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C) ²**My God, I put my trust in You; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

AM) ³Let none who look to You be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C) ⁴**Show me Your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

AM) ⁵Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; in You have I trusted all the day long.

C) ⁶**Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

AM) ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to Your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

C) ⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore You teach sinners in Your way.**

AM) ⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly Your way.

C) ¹⁰**All Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep Your covenant and Your testimonies.**

AM) The Second Reading is 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

AM) ⁹How can we thank God enough for You in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of You? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see You face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to You. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for You. ¹³And 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.

AM) The Word of the Lord.

C) **Thanks be to God.**

P) Please stand in body or spirit for the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel Acclamation for today will be sung:

C) **Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

P) The holy Gospel according to **Luke 21:25-36**

C) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P) [Jesus said:] ²⁵"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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." ²⁹Then He told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. ³⁴"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, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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."

P) The Gospel of the Lord.

C) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – "Lords, Listen to Your Children" ccli#22829

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 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 to heaven, He is seated at the right hand of God 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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *(The congregation will respond with **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.

Sharing of the Peace

P) The peace of the Lord be with you always. C) **And also with you.**

The Offering is Gathered

Thank you to all who have sent or brought your tithes and offerings.

If, because of employment or financial difficulties, you are unable to bring or send your offerings at this time, please know the church will be helped by your offerings of prayers.

Thank you for giving from your heart – because God LOVES a cheerful giver!

(If you would like to donate electronically, you may do so at our website or Facebook page)

Offertory Hymn – "Let My Prayer Rise Up" ELW#232

Offertory Prayer

L) God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all Your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet You in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C) **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

L) 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.

C) **Amen**

Sending Hymn – "My Lord, He is A Com'in" ccli#302518

Dismissal

L) Go in peace. Christ is near.

C) **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

ELCA GOOD GIFTS – Looking for good gifts this year? [Shop ELCA Good Gifts](#) and choose from more than 50 unique, charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and family. They'll get a card to let them know about what you've done, and you'll get the joy that comes with making the world a better place. Your gift of \$50 would buy a goat; \$30 a piglet; \$40 to educate a girl; or \$250 for safe drinking water. God's love is a gift, given through Christ. This Christmas let us celebrate that gift by sharing God's love with others.

Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Friday, December 3, 2021

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Saturday, December 4, 2021

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.