



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN

November 27, 2022

First Sunday in Advent

“Hanging of the Greens”

Introduction

Hope. Anticipation. Expectation. These are the themes of Advent. The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today’s readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord’s coming. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Hymn #248 People, Look East

Prayer of the Day

P: Please join your hearts with me in prayer:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Meaning of the Service

Congregation Hymn: #257 Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel (v. 1 & 2)

The Advent Wreath

Congregation Hymn: #244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (v. 1 & 2)

The Sanctuary Evergreens

Congregation Hymn: #296 What Child Is This (v. 1 & 2)

Paraments

Congregation Hymn: #267 Joy to the World (v. 1 & 2)

The Poinsettia

Congregation Hymn: #249 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry (v. 1 & 2)

The Evergreen Tree

Congregation Hymn: #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1 & 3)

First Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Love to all is the standard for followers of Jesus. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

R God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

C Thanks be to God!

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) # 174 **Celtic Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia . Alleluia, alleluia

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty fourth chapter.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus will return in power and glory to end all suffering and to fulfill God's purposes for our eternal redemption. Jesus encourages his followers to "keep awake" and "be ready," looking forward to the day of his return.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

PMessage: The already and not yet

Pastor John Omans

Message Song: (cranberry) #254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed (cranberry) Pg. #105

(Please kneel)

The Prayers of the Church

P O God, hear our prayer,

(After each petition the congregation responds with the following:)

C and let our cry come to you.

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.

(We share Christ's peace)

(please be seated)

Stewardship Minute

Thank you to all who helped to decorate our church for this season of Advent and Christmas! As we heard today in the explanations of the 'hanging of the greens,' these decorations add much meaning to our worship. Thank you!

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray together:

P: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

Lord's Prayer pg. #112 (Our Father, Who art in heaven,)

Blessing

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn (cranberry) #292 Love Has Come

Sending

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Jan Macklay

Acolyte: Megan Hudak

Assistants: Jenna & Megan Hudak, Kendal Bowers

Reader: Janet Wichmann

Ushers: Angie Barbknecht, Janet Wichmann

Council Person: Sue Michaels

Videographer: Gyles Randall

Facebook Live: Curt Yess

Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.

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