



1st Sunday in Advent

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

setting by Harvey Hahn

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

P: Blessed is the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Woodbridge, VA 22192
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HYMN OF THE DAY

~Please stand

Thy Strong Word

ELW 511

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The notes are primarily quarter notes and eighth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the staves.

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The notes are primarily quarter notes and eighth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the staves.

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The notes are primarily quarter notes and eighth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the staves.

thank thec, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The notes are primarily quarter notes and eighth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the staves.

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The notes are primarily quarter notes and eighth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the staves.

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
 throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 mouths to speak thy holy name.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 May the light which thou dost send
 fill our songs with alleluias,
 alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
 to thee laud and honor be.
 To thee, Light of Light begotten,
 praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 glory, glory be to thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976
 Music: ERNEST, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944
 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House



SENDING HYMN

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

~Please stand

Light Dawns on a Weary World

1 Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to
 2 Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once for -

see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a
 bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a

w weary world: the promised day of justice comes.
 wea - ry world: the promised feast of plenty comes.
 wea - ry world: the promised green of Eden comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
 the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
 as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PLACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
 and from whom no secrets are hid:
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy Name,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFSSION & FORGIVENESS ~ *Please stand, sit, or kneel for Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

GATHERING HYMN~*Please stand*

Lost in the Night

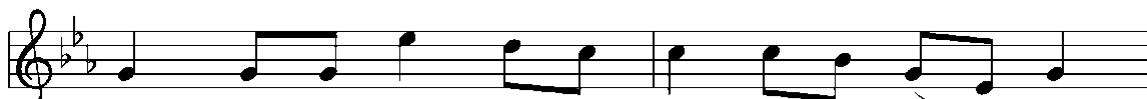
ELW 243



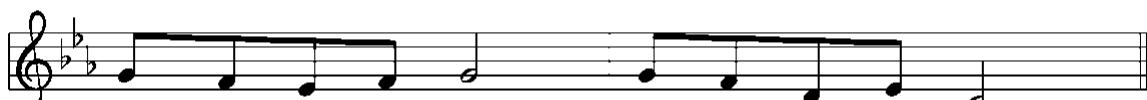
1 Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'rous, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,
 4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,
 riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.
 bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?
 Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?
 Christ is com - ing soon! Christ is com - ing soon!
 Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859–1943, alt.

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast

(ELW Setting 4)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God

*and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.*

Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

~ Please share a sign of peace with those around you

~Please be seated

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The first reading is from Jeremiah, the 33rd chapter ...

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. 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. 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."

The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose days draw near. **Amen.**

He Came Down (verse 1)

ELW 253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

The second reading is from First Thesalonians, the third chapter ...

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - please stand, if able

Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter ... C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"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, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 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."

Holy Words, Holy Wisdom. Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY ~*Please stand (see insert)**Thy Strong Word**ELW 511*

THE APOSTLE'S 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 into heaven,****he is seated at the right hand of 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 ~ *Please stand, sit, or kneel for the prayers~*

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

A brief silence.

A: 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.**

A: 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.**A: 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.**A: 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 (*especially*).Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: 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.**

A: 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.**P: 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.**

OFFERING *We give thanks to God by offering the gifts we have been given for the sake of the world.*

In lieu of passing the offering plate, we invite you to place your donations in the plate as you leave the sanctuary, or donate online at stmatthewsva.org/give. Your offerings go toward the mission of the church, and allow us to respond to the needs in our congregation and community.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM***Waiting***

Keeseker
Senior Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of our waiting and watching,

C: 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. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

P: It is indeed our work and joy that at all times and places we offer thanks and praise to you O God, through Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of life renewed. And so, this morning we join 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life;

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 your sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming,

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: **Come Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: So, come to this table, You who have much faith and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ~*Please be seated~ All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. In lieu of coming forward to the chancel to receive communion, please remain seated and receive communion from your pew. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you: The body of Christ given for you. And the blood of Christ shed for you.*

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.**

SENDING HYMN ~*Please stand (see insert)*

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

BLESSING

P: 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.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

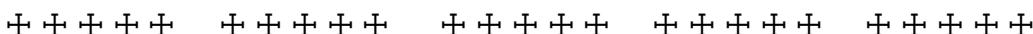
C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE*

Rejoice, for Christ is King!

Jacob B. Weber

*During the postlude, you are invited to exit the sanctuary or sit and enjoy the musical offering.



Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Interim Pastor: Rev. Kirsten Laderach

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Music/Choir Director: Kathy Lundgren

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Lector: Ron Trostel

Tech Volunteers: Jeremy Wise, Joyce Forbes & Tom Meier, Zoe Wise

Advent Wreath Lighters: The Knudson family



The eternal candle for the month of November is sponsored by the Zimmerman Family in grateful appreciation to the glory of God for our church home and church family at St. Matthew's.



The altar flowers today are sponsored by the Payne family in Honor of Steve & Jeannie Payne on their 20th Wedding Anniversary.

For announcements and upcoming events, please go to our website at www.stmatthewsva.org

Next week's readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 1:68-79

Midweek Advent Services ~ Wednesdays at 7pm starting December 1

A contemplative, restorative service of word and prayer. Join us for 30 minutes to dwell on the theme of Holy Darkness... so much, from creation to the arrival of Jesus in the night, has come out of and during a time of darkness. We will need 7 readers for the first service, to read but a paragraph. Sign-up on Sign-up genius or talk to Pastor Kirsten to volunteer.

Sunday, Dec 19 ~ 6pm "The Bells of Christmas: A Family Christmas Program" Join us for an outdoor music program! We will sing some favorite Christmas Carols, ring some bells, and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies around the campfire!