

First Sunday in Advent

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music & Greeting

The Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prepare My Heart, Lord Jesus!”

Opening Hymn

“Arise, O Christian People”
Christian Worship 14 st. 1-3

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away.
To us, by grace alone the truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before him; prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, this great, this heav’nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way; the lowly valley’s raising,
The heights of pride abasing, his path all even lay.

The Congregation will stand

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror the haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, that heeds God’s invitation
And makes true preparation — it is the Lord’s delight.

Prepare My Heart through Repentance

P: The Christian life is to be one of repentance. We are to turn from our sin which separates us from God, and return to him. This can only take place when we accept God’s just accusation proclaimed by the prophet Ezekiel:

“Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Repent and live!”
(Ezekiel 18:30-32)

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Prepare My Heart through Peace

P: God has heard and answered your plea for mercy, and has given his one and only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for your sins. Be assured nothing can separate you from the undeserved love of God. Be confident of God’s powerful rescue in Christ Jesus. Be at peace because all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: As we live with repentant hearts and forgiven lives, we not only stand acceptable before the Lord, we also stand ready to greet our coming Savior—always remembering what the Apostle Peter wrote:

“For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.” *(2 Peter 3:8-9)*

P: As the first candle is lit, come, let us humble ourselves before the Lord, our Savior. Come, let us confess our sins, and rejoice in

our forgiveness. Come, let us prepare our hearts and lives to meet the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hymn verse

“Arise, O Christian People”
Christian Worship 14 st. 4

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you this blessed Adventide.
From stall and manger low come now to dwell within me;
I’ll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.

Prayer of the Day

P: O gracious Savior, we know how easily we are distracted. Satan regularly leads us astray with his deceptions and temptations. Because we fail to stand against them, forgive us. Hear our humble prayer of repentance. Turn us away from our sin. By your undeserved love in Jesus, turn us back to you, so that we may walk in your path of righteousness and know the peace you have secured for us. Be with us always. Strengthen us by your unsurpassed power. Lead us through this life to eternal life in heaven; where we will live with you and praise you as the God of our rescue—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



C: A — — men!

The Lessons from God’s Word

“Rescue Us; Preserve Us; Bless Us through Your Strength!”

Old Testament

Isaiah 64:1–9

¹Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down.
Mountains then would quake because of your presence.
²As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil,
make your name known to your adversaries.

Then nations would quake in your presence.
³You did amazing things that we did not expect.
You came down. Mountains quaked
because of your presence.
⁴From ancient times no one has heard.
No ear has understood.
No eye has seen any god except you,
who goes into action for the one who waits for him.
⁵You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness,
who remembers you by walking in your ways!
But you were angry because we sinned.
We have remained in our sins for a long time.
Can we still be saved?
⁶All of us have become like something unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.
All of us have withered like a leaf,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you.
So you hid your face from us.
You made us melt by the power of our guilt.
⁸But now, LORD, you are our father.
We are the clay, and you are our potter.
All of us are the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be angry, LORD, without limit.
Do not remember our guilt forever.
Please look closely. All of us are your people.

Psalm Verse

Psalm 24:3-6

P: Who may go up to the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, whose soul is not set on what is false, who does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God who saves him. Such are the people of Jacob who look for the LORD, who seek his face.

Congregation responds



Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

⁴I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. ⁵You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, ⁶because the testimony about Christ was established in you. ⁷As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Children's Message

"God Will Keep You Strong because He is Faithful"

Gospel

Mark 13:26-37

²⁶Then you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷At that time he will send out his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of the sky.

²⁸"Learn from this illustration of the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also when you see these things happening,

you will know that he is near—at the doors! ³⁰Amen I tell you: This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things happen. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³²“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

P: This is the Word of our God!

Congregation responds

“Blest Be the God of Israel”
Christian Worship 275 st. 1

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
He visits and redeems us; he grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace.

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes”
Christian Worship 9

Jesus, your Church with longing eyes
For your expected coming waits.
When will the promised light arise
And glory beam from heaven’s gates?

E’en now, when tempests round us fall
And wintry clouds o’er-cast the sky,

Your words with pleasure we recall
And know that our redemption's nigh.

Come gracious Lord, our hearts renew,
Our sins forgive, our foes suppress,
Our rooted enmity subdue,
And crown your gospel with success.

Oh, come and reign o'er ev'ry land;
Let Satan from his throne be hurled.
Let nations bow to your command;
Let grace revive a dying world.

Teach us in watchfulness and prayer
To wait for your appointed hour,
And fit us by your grace to share
The triumphs of your conqu'ring pow'r.

Prepare, My Heart, Lord Jesus! _____

Sermon

Isaiah 64:6-9

“Through Repentance, Save Me!”

Do not hide your face from me
Do not be angry with me
Do not remember my guilt

The Confession of Faith

(We join in the words of the Nicene Creed)

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father;
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen!**

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks!

Prayers for the Day

Special Prayers and Requests

Prayer for those receiving the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Prayer

(spoken with the pastor)

**C: 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!**

Hymn of Preparation

“Draw Near and Take the Body”
Christian Worship 309 st. 1 & 3

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was he for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.

Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.

Personal Prayer

Before Communion

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the cross. This wine is your shed blood, which purified me from all guilt. At your invitation, I humbly come. Receive me, my Savior, forgive my sins, and restore the joy of your salvation. Amen.

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al—so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he called people to repentance and offered them forgiveness through faith. Now, through him, have come salvation, power, the kingdom of our God, and the authority to rule over all things. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks, honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy

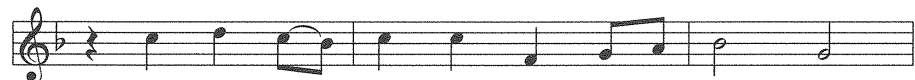
Sanctus



C: Ho—ly, ho—ly, ho—ly, is the Lord of hosts;



The whole earth is full of your glo—ry.



You are my God, and I will ex—alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be—come my sal-



va—tion. Ho—ly, ho—ly, ho—ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo — ry.

The Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The Blessing of Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



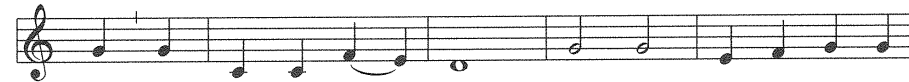
C: A ——— men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a—way the sin of the



world; have mer—cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a—way the sin of the world; have mer—cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a—way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A ——— men.

The Congregation may be seated for the Distribution

The Lord's Supper is a Sacrament through which Jesus Christ our Savior strengthens our faith and forgives our sins. In it we receive His actual body and blood, as we receive the bread and the wine. If you have not communed with us before or if you are not familiar with our procedure, please do not come to the Lord's Table today. We also encourage you to speak with our pastor following the service. He will be happy to share with you the necessary preparations to receive our Savior's body and blood in a future service.

Our request comes out of love for you and concern for your spiritual well-being, so that you can receive the blessing our Lord wants you to receive.

Thanksgiving

Song of Thanksgiving

(Congregation rises and sings)



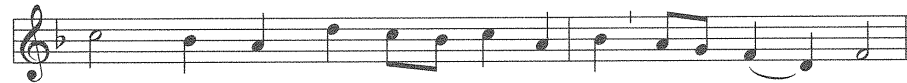
Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu — ia!

Closing Prayer:

P: O dearest Jesus, how good are you are and how blessed you have made us. We have come burdened with our guilt, stained with sin, and humbled by our rebellion, and you have forgiven us. Through your gracious Word, together with your body and blood, you have declared all completely washed away. Make this good news the foundation for our life. As we daily struggle with temptation and sin, lead us to acknowledge our weakness and humbly confess our rebellion. Then, assure us we are forgiven and declared righteous for your sake. Make every blessing you secured by your death and resurrection our highest good, and the confidence of your never-failing presence. As we live in anticipation of your coming, be our comfort, our refuge, and our guide. Bless us, now and always, as we live in your love—our true, Triune and gracious God.



C: A ——— men.

The Benediction:

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



C: A — men. A ——— men. A ——— men.

Closing Hymn

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

Christian Worship 26 st. 1-3

Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring

Came with peace from realms on high;

Jesus came to win redemption,

Lowly came on earth die.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy

When our hearts are worn with care;

Jesus comes again in answer

To an earnest, heartfelt prayer.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,

Bringing news of sins forgiv’n;

Jesus comes with words of gladness,

Leading souls redeemed to heav’n.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv’n.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—*Welcome in Name of our promised and coming Savior, Jesus Christ!* What a blessing it is to hear of God the Father's faithfulness, as well as his readiness to forgive when we repent. May the Lord's undeserved love lead us to daily turn from our sin, and return to him.

- If you are visiting today, please sign the guest book or a guest card, and worship again, soon!
- Following the worship service there will be time for fellowship over a cup of coffee and some snacks.
- Bible Class will begin at 11:00 am to review the Gospel lesson through which we are prepared for both our Savior's coming in humility and in exaltation.

Monday—Handbell Choir practice at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday—Church Council meeting at 7:00 pm. Committees will meet at 8:00 pm, if needed.

Wednesday—Bible Class will resume at 7:00 pm. This evening the fourth section will be completed—The Career of the Reformer and his lasting contributions.

Friday—Office Hours from 10:30—2:30 pm

Saturday—Church Cleaning: C. Schueler

- Lawn beginning December 10th—J. Everson

Sunday, December 10th—Sunday Worship and Live Streaming at 9:30 am. We continue with the Advent theme: Prepare My Heart, Lord Jesus. This week we learn of the preparation offered through the forgiveness of sins—a preparation which was proclaimed through the ministry of John the Baptist.

- Christian Education will follow focus on Peter's words where he encourages believers to make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless.

Coming Events

Annual Ladies Christmas Get-together and Cookie Exchange

This evening of fun and fellowship will be **December 12th** at 7:00 pm. Jan Scheffler will be the host. Please speak to Jan Scheffler or Debbie Aitkins for more information—what to bring, etc.

Church Decorating and Chili

This year we will prepare the church for the celebration of Jesus' birth on **December 17th**. The schedule will be as follows —

- ◇ Decorating at 3:30 pm
- ◇ Chili dinner at 5:30 pm
- ◇ Fellowship at Karolyn Hanna's home at 7:00 pm.

Please note there is a sign-up sheet for the dinner and desserts. You can bring chili, corn bread, salads, cheese, and of course, desserts for the fellowship at Karolyn's home. Also, the more help we receive, the quicker we will complete the decoration of the sanctuary. Thanks!

The Birth of our Savior.

In celebration of our Savior's birth, we will hold two services. Our Christmas Eve service will be Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 pm. Our Christmas Day service will be Sunday, December 25th at 9:30 am. Make sure you include both services as part of your Christmas plans. There will be a time for fellowship after both services.





OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

770 Vala Drive

Santa Barbara, California 93111

www.orlcsb.net

For more information, contact

pastor.orlcsb@gmail.com

James N. Proeber, Pastor

805.967.1128 – Office & 805.967.3570 – Home
