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Come, Lord Jesus!

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**Come, Lord Jesus! – As Judge**

The Second Sunday of Advent

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*December 4, 2022*

## **SERIES THEME: COME, LORD JESUS!**

The Latin word adventus means “coming.” The last words in Scripture are “Come, Lord Jesus!” Thus, the season of Advent begins with the end in mind. We enter a new Church Year with our eyes fixed on the End—capital “E”—when Jesus Christ will come and destroy this sin-broken world. If that is what Jesus and his angels are coming to do—destroy the universe with fire (2 Peter 3)—why would we cry out, “Come, Lord Jesus”? Because we know that Jesus has come into our world once before. The Son of God became the Son of Man. From the manger to the cross, Jesus did everything necessary to redeem mankind. As this new Church Year walks us through the entire life of Christ, we see God’s promises of deliverance fulfilled... God’s plan of salvation completed. And so, when Christ comes again, while the universe will be destroyed, we know God’s people will be ushered into a new, glorious, everlasting kingdom. Advent is necessary to prepare us for Christmas. It enables us to understand the true significance of Christmas. For Advent allows us to see that because of what Christ did when he came the first time, believers need not fear when he comes again. Instead, we yearn for it. Come, Lord Jesus!

## **THEME OF THE DAY: COME, LORD JESUS! – AS JUDGE**

When Jesus comes back as judge, everyone will face a binary outcome. Either they will be judged righteous and experience the peace and joys of Paradise. Or they will be judged wicked and suffer unquenchable fire (Matthew 3). John the Baptist’s job was to point to the only way to prepare for a judgment, one where the stakes are that high. Repent! And look to the Lord Jesus. For when Jesus came into our world the first time, it was not as judge, but as Savior. All those whose faith is in Christ have already been judged righteous. Please, take these words to heart: the reign of God draws near, and his judgment is inevitable. As John the Baptist once said, “All people will see God’s salvation.” The only question is if one sees Christ’s second coming with joy or regret. For those who fail to repent, the coming of the Judge brings certain doom. But his people will see that Judge like a banner on the hilltop, rallying us to his glorious side.

**Worship Leader**  
**Organist/Pianist**

Pastor Justin Wilkens  
Quinton Corwin

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **The Service, Setting One (page 154 in Christian Worship 21)**

### **Hymn: 321 God's Own Son Most Holy**

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

*CW 154*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**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.**

## Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



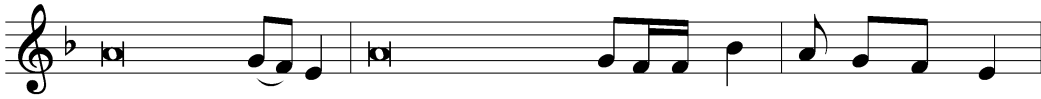
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



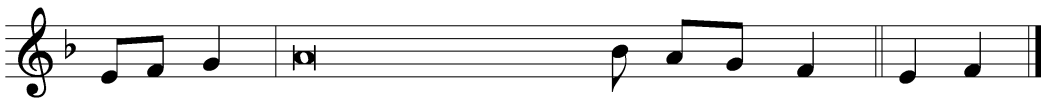
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

*From the family tree of Jesse, father of King David, another king would come to judge the world with righteousness and establish an everlasting kingdom.*

### The Branch From Jesse

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,  
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> He will be delighted with the fear of the Lord.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the poor,  
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,  
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear will graze together,  
and their young ones will lie down together.  
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,  
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord,  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: 130A Out of the Depths

### Second Reading

*Romans 15:4–13*

*God's people face the coming judgment not with fear but with hope because God has raise up the Root of Jesse as our Savior.*

<sup>4</sup> Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. <sup>5</sup> And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. <sup>9</sup> He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and I will sing to your name.

<sup>10</sup> And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

<sup>11</sup> And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples give him praise.

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,  
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;  
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

<sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

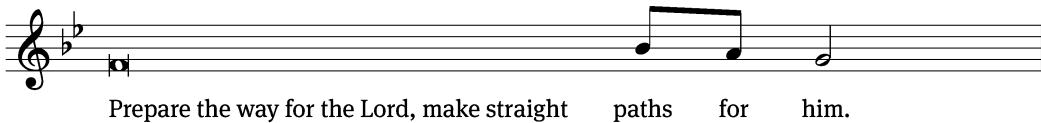
Luke 3:4,6



### Refrain



### Tone



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

## Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

*To prepare us for the coming judgment, God sent John the Baptist, a voice in the wilderness, calling all to repent.*

### John the Baptist Prepares the Way

<sup>1</sup> In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!" <sup>3</sup> Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
"Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight."

<sup>4</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. <sup>6</sup> They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! <sup>9</sup> Do not think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup> Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> I baptize you with water for



repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day: 316 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry**

**Sermon**

*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.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

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**

**Offering Hymn: 322 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

*sts. 1–2*

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. 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.**

**Hymn: 304 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied**

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship

**Wednesday 12/7:** Midweek Advent Worship Service 6:30 PM at Grace

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

### **Christmas Bags**

There is a container in the back of the church to donate for the Christmas bags.

### **Thanksgiving Offering**

We collected \$2,700 to donate to Christian Aid and Relief for our Thanksgiving service.

### **Ladies Aid Meeting**

The next Ladies Aid Meeting will take place this upcoming Monday December 5th at 10:00 AM.

### **Council Meeting**

The next council meeting will be on December 11th following our worship service.

### **Service Opportunities**

We are currently looking for members to help with Coffee hour, and Sunday School. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Pastor Wilkens.

**CONNECTION CARDS:** Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at [www.bethelyork.com](http://www.bethelyork.com) on the member connect tab or scan this code.



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