



Advent  
Midweek  
Four

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"*  
Advent 4 Midweek ~December 21, 2022

## **ADVENT MIDWEEK 4**

**December 21, 2022**

**Welcome** to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

### **✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**THEME: The Bible, Our Book of Advents**

**“The Goodly Land I See”**

**AS WE GATHER:** When we consider God’s promises about the promised land for Israel and our own inheritance in heaven, we will be good stewards of our faith... and look forward with great anticipation to the revealing of Jesus Christ in His final advent.

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

### **HYMN**

**“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”**

Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us  
And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading,  
Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love,  
Let us do the Father’s bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus  
And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy  
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe;  
Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction,  
Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in  
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die,  
There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken.  
Jesus, You are now our head.  
We are Your own living members;  
Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly,  
Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be,  
Life eternal grant to me.

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. O Everlasting God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Grant us Thy grace that we may study the Holy Scriptures diligently, and, with our whole heart, seek and find Christ therein and through Him obtain everlasting life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ THE WORD ✠

### Joshua 1:1–6 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, <sup>2</sup>"Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. <sup>3</sup>Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. <sup>4</sup>From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. <sup>5</sup>No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. <sup>6</sup>Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### 1 Peter 1:3–9 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Hebrews 4:1–11 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. <sup>2</sup>For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. <sup>3</sup>For we who have believed enter that rest, as He has said, “As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest,’” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. <sup>4</sup>For He has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works.” <sup>5</sup>And again in this passage He said, “They shall not enter My rest.” <sup>6</sup>Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>again He appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” <sup>8</sup>For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup>So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup>for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from His. <sup>11</sup>Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!”

Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv’n;

**MESSAGE**

**“The Goodly Land I See”**

**Josh 1:1–6; 1 Pet 1:3-9; Heb 4:1-11**

**Pastor Jim Sprengle**

**PRAYERS** (following each petition)

- P** “Lord, in Your mercy,”
- C** “hear our prayer.”

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (*Mt 6:9ff; Lk 11:2ff*)

- P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.**

**BENEDICAMUS**

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

**BENEDICTION**

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
- C** **Amen.**

**HYMN**

**“Let Me Be Thine Forever”**

*Tune: Today Your Mercy Calls Us*

Let me be Thine forever,  
 My faithful God and Lord;  
 Let me forsake Thee never  
 Nor wander from Thy Word.

Lord, do not let me waver,  
But give me steadfastness,  
And for such grace forever  
Thy holy name I'll bless.

Lord Jesus, my salvation,  
My light, my life divine,  
My only consolation,  
O make me wholly Thine!  
For Thou hast dearly bought me  
With blood and bitter pain.  
Let me, since Thou hast sought me,  
Eternal life obtain.

O Thou, O Holy Spirit,  
My comforter and guide,  
Grant that in Jesus' merit  
I always may confide,  
Him to the end confessing  
Whom I have known by faith.  
Give me Thy constant blessing  
And grant a Christian death.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**Our Mission Statement:**  
*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

**Our Vision Statement:**  
*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission”*