

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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."

Psalm 25:1-10**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"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, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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."

A pastor once summarized the way God answers prayers with three categories: yes, no, and not yet. To his young audience, these categories made sense and served as a simple way to think about their prayer life. But having clear categories does not dismiss the fact that it is often easier to receive the answer "yes" or "no," compared to the answer "not yet." After all, the answer "not yet" often involves waiting. And waiting can be exhausting!

Whether it be waiting for a medical diagnosis, longing for healing in a relationship, expecting a child, or enduring another situation beyond our complete control, it can be challenging to be patient, accept the unknown, and trust God's promises in the meantime.

This is a reality Jesus understood, and one that is at the heart of his parable of the fig tree in today's reading. The early believers needed encouragement as they waited for the coming of the Lord. Patience, endurance, and trust did not come any easier to them than they do to many of us today. Yet that is precisely what followers of Christ are invited to do during the season of Advent: to remain prayerful and expectant as they await the birth of Jesus.

Perhaps that is why Jesus gives his followers something to do in their waiting. Jesus' words urge us to be on the lookout for signs of God's kingdom, even as we await the fulfillment of God's promises in the future. The sign you see may be a neighbor helping another in need, a child growing and thriving, or a card received from a friend. God's promise is that even as we wait for the fulfillment of God's kingdom, it is drawing near—and is, in fact, already among us.

LUKE 21:25

THERE WILL
BE SIGNS
IN THE SUN,
THE MOON,
AND THE STARS

Next Sunday's Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

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Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-F

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH
200 West Anderson Lane - Austin Texas

ADVENT 1

NOVEMBER 28, 2021



“WATCH”

“Called by Grace, Led by Faith,
Welcoming All to Share God’s Love”



9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 AM ADVENT LITURGY

GATHERING HYMN

(vs. 1 & 2) ELW 242

“Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn”

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. We make the sign of the cross in remembrance of our baptism into the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

THE ADVENT INVITATORY

P: Give Glory to the coming King.

C: Oh, come, let us worship Emmanuel.

P: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: The whole creation pleads:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine,

C: and the hills shall flow with milk and honey.

P: The uneven ground shall be made smooth
and the rough places a plain.

C: Come, Lord, do not delay.

SHARING OF THE PEACE *(Greet one another)*

ENTRANCE HYMN

(vs. 3 & 4) ELW 242

“Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn”

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY: **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.**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

P: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,

I lift ¹up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be ¹put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph ¹over me.**

³Let none who look to you be ¹put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame ¹who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ¹ways, O LORD, and teach ¹me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your ¹truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted
all ¹the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- ¹sion and love, for they are from ¹everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- ¹ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- ¹right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners ¹in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- ¹ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast ¹love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your ¹testimonies.**

GLORIA PATRI

L: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. **C: Amen.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

P: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

ADVENT CAROL *(Congregation Stands)*

ELW 262

“Wait for the Lord”

(Soloist: Verses; Congregation: Refrain)

Refrain: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

GOSPEL ANNOUNCED

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 21:25-36.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL PROCLAIMED

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

APOSTLES’ 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.

LIGHTING FIRST CANDLE/2021 GETHSEMANE ADVENT WREATH
ADVENT CAROL OF THE DAY *(vs 1)* ELW 240

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

ADVENT MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE BAPTIZED COMMUNITY

P: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

CONSECRATION OF BREAD AND WINE

LORD’S PRAYER THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION/OFFERING “We Are Waiting for Jesus” Vocal Solo

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW 254

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS AND BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “People, Look East” ELW 248

SILENT PRAYERS, THE SENDING FORTH

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

