

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

2330 E. Calumet St., Appleton, Wisconsin
Sunday, November 28, 2021 ~ 8 & 9:40 a.m. Services



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.

ELW denotes the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal
P–Pastor A–Assisting Minister C–Congregation

GATHERING: *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

GATHERING MUSIC

8:00

Seasonal Song Medley

9:40

Emmanuel God with Us

Chris Tomlin/Jason Ingram

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME to WORSHIP

CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY FOR ADVENT I

Hope for Those Who Wait

P Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God’s eternal time.

C **How long, O Lord, how long?**

P For those waiting for answered prayer:

C **Grant your steadfast patience.**

P For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

C **Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.**

P For those waiting for justice and mercy to come:

C **Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

The first candle is lit as the following is read:

- P This morning we light the **first candle** which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering, and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God's presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning we echo the words of the Psalmist, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" Let's sing together the following song:

Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

© 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-703841. All rights reserved.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.
- C **Amen**
- 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.

GATHERING SONG

He Will Send to Us a Savior

Colleen Perrine

We walk in darkness, we pray for light.
God's promise pierces the darkest night.
Unbind our souls, Lord; bring peace to us.
Our hearts are so cold, we need to trust!

Refrain



Em-man-u - el, Em-man - u - el!



He will send to us a Sa-vior, Em-man-u - el.



From age to a - ge, the pro-phets tell:



Our God is with us: Em-man-u - el!

We wait in blindness, we dream of light.
We have been humbled, our hearts contrite.
High king of heaven born as a man
Comes to complete God's salvation plan! Refrain

WTL

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **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**

WORD: *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The 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."

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How 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.

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor 1x, cong repeats

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Stand up and raise your heads—your redemption is drawing near.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

“Punching Holes in the Darkness”

Pastor Roger McQuiston

HYMN ELW 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

(9:40) Children's Video

God Is So Big

Brigetta Wingender & Friends
Music: Colleen Perrine

APOSTLES CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **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 the CHURCH

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

Petitions end: Hear us, O God.

Response: ... **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.

C **Amen**

MEAL: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

8:00

Sleepers Wake

J.S. Bach

9:40

Glory/Let There Be Peace

Maher/Stevens/Popadic

OFFERING PRAYER

- A Let us pray. 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**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P 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 sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

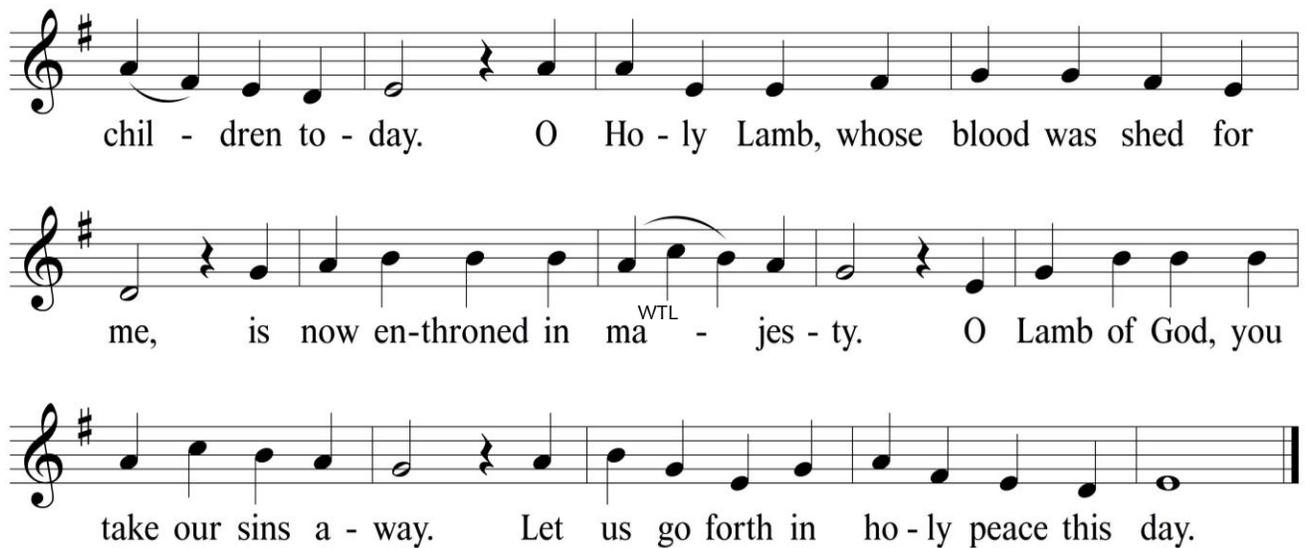
- P Jesus' disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us how to pray." He said to them, "When you pray, say":
C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
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**



In the bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present. Much more than a sign, story or symbol of God's love, it is an event where God reaches down to us through common earthly elements and invites us into the mystery and miracle of a relationship with him, the Word made flesh for us. All, who have been baptized, are invited to this experience of God's love, where He is our host and we are his guests, who will take the message of his love into the world.

LAMB OF GOD





chil - dren to - day. O Ho - ly Lamb, whose blood was shed for
me, is now en-throned in ma^{WTL} - jes - ty. O Lamb of God, you
take our sins a - way. Let us go forth in ho - ly peace this day.

COMMUNION SONG

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW 263

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version; Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-703841. All rights reserved.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

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.

C **Amen**

FINAL 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.

C **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259

Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
the King of glory comes in state;
the Lord of lords and King of kings,
the Savior of the world who brings
his great salvation to the earth.
So raise a shout of holy mirth
and praise our God and Lord,
Creator, Spirit, Word.

He is the rock of our belief,
the heart of mercy's gentle self.
His kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter is his loveliness;
he brings our sorrows to an end.
Now gladly praise our king and friend,
and worship him with song
for saving us from wrong.

Oh, happy towns and blessed lands
that live by their true king's commands.
And blessed be the hearts he rules,
the humble places where he dwells.
He is the rightful Son of bliss
who fills our lives and makes us his,
creator of the world,
our only strength for good.
Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;
our hearts are open wide in trust.
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,
upon our sorrows shine your face,
and let your Holy Spirit guide
our journey in your grace so wide.
We praise your holy name,
from age to age the same!

DISMISSAL

- P We are a family of Christians
C ...**growing in faith and reaching out in love.**
P Go in peace. Christ is near.
C **Thanks be to God!**



WORSHIP LEADERS

Preaching Minister	Roger McQuiston
Presiding Minister	Jennifer DeNetz
Assisting Minister	Mark Steine
Musicians	Colleen Perrine, Erik Larson, Bob Merrill Jeff Sheffler, Nancy Ullsperger
Ushers	(8:00) Dean Buffington & Dave Jordahl (9:40) Chad Ekern, Scott Perrine
Greeters	(8:00) Arlyn & Pat Plate
Communion Servers	(8:00) Greg Grunert (9:40) Nancy Nagan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Permission to reprint, podcast and/or stream scripture and worship texts (Scripture: New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America/Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress) © 2021 Augsburg Fortress by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS000711). Advent texts (Candlelighting Ceremony) by Rev. Rich Davis, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, River Forest, IL. All rights reserved. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream *Christ Be Our Light* (Text & Music: Bernadette Farrell; © 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP), *Savior of the Nations, Come* (Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version; Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress) and *Fling Wide the Door* (Text: Georg Weisell, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943; Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; arrangement © 2006 Augsburg Fortress). Permission to reprint, podcast and/or stream *Emmanuel God with Us* (Text & Music: Chris Tomlin & Jason Ingram; © 2021 Capitol CMG Paragon [Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing]; S. D. G. Publishing [Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing]) and *Glory/Let There Be Peace* (Words & Music: Chris Stevens | Matt Maher | Rachel Taylor Popadic; © Meaux Mercy [Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing], Moody Producer Music [Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing], Be Essential Songs [Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC], I Am A Pilgrim Songs [Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC], Rachel Taylor Music [Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC] by permission under CCLI License #788723. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

During our Advent Midweek services (at 6:15 p.m.) we will use our traditional “Joyous Light” liturgy. Our theme will be “**Answering the Call of Christ**” from the perspective people who were there at the nativity using brief videos and meditations. Our final service will be a Healing Service.

December 1: Zechariah December 8: Mary

December 15: Joseph December 22: Service of Healing

Mission Statement

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a family of Christians

Growing in Faith and Reaching out in Love

POP Vision 2024

We will be... an engaged and inclusive congregation of disciples, transforming the lives in our community through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Welcome to **God's House** which is the spiritual home of all who come to worship today. Part of Prince of Peace Church's mission statement says that we are "a family of Christians." Because God has made us family, we gather together in this church home and online to receive the Lord's strength, comfort and peace. Christ, our brother, is here, and his presence will change us. As new people, we leave this time of worship to go out and live our daily lives in the world as ambassadors for Christ. Go, but remember to come home. Join us next Sunday!

The **Glass Cross on the Altar is unique.** There are only 3 of these handmade crosses in the world. The other two are in congregations with whom we share our ministry. One is on the altar of Kopano Lutheran Church in Mogwase, South Africa and the other is at the Evangelische Stadtpfarrkirche Hermannstadt in Sibiu, Romania. These Lutheran churches are ministry partners with us with whom we have shared visits, resources, and mutual support. Each Sunday as we gather in worship under this common cross, we are reminded of our faith in our Savior, Jesus the Christ, whose Spirit unites peoples of different countries, races, cultures and histories under His benevolent love.

 **A hearing loop system** is installed in our sanctuary. Those with hearing aid devices may activate their T-Coil technology.

As a courtesy to others, please remember to **turn off your mobile devices** during worship.