

# Our Kings Coming is Coming

December 3, 2023



First Sunday of  
Advent

**WELCOME, GUESTS!!!** We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

**ADVENT SEASON** - Brings a close to "End times" and starts a new church year. With Advent, we change the colors to blue for the royalty, representing the hope and anticipation of our King who comes through the manger. Jesus came to accomplish our redemption. He comes today in the means of grace to distribute that redemption. He will come again on the last day in our resurrection. As we begin this new year, we use a 16th-century tradition of lighting the Advent wreath. The candle lighting focuses our attention on Jesus, our brother, and the light of the world.

The wreath is in a circular garland to represent life in eternity. Each of the four candles represents a thousand years from the promise to the fulfillment of the prophecy. The lighting of the first candle is the "Prophecy Candle," remembering the prophets who foretold of Christ's coming. The second candle is the "Bethlehem Candle," representing the love of Christ to come to the manger. The third candle is the "Shepherds Candle" this is the pink candle reminding us of the shepherd's joy. The fourth candle is the "Angels Candle," embodying the peace of the message brought by the angels. The center candle is the "Christ Candle" it is the center candle and depicts the life of Christ and the purity he has brought into the world. We remember Isaiah's words, "though our sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow."

**ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT— WS, p.26**

*The "Service of Word and Sacrament" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church.*



# OPENING HYMN:

#3

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YOU MIGHTY GATES

**\*\*Please Stand for The Last Verse\*\***



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -  
 2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His  
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where  
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make  
 5 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My



hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is  
 char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is  
 Christ the rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and  
 it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for  
 heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.  
 hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
 heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -  
 The end of all our woe he brings; There -  
 The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who  
 So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And  
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -



fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther  
 fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior  
 comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it  
 new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be  
 til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 praise For word and deed and grace!  
 fame We of - fer to your name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: MACHT HOCH DIE TUR (88 88 88 66) Freylinghausen, *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704.

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also, with you.**

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

### CONFESSION OF SINS

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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

*KYRIE*

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise. (*Psalm 145:3*)

## O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,  
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;  
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and  
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,  
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,  
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the  
King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

The musical score is written for a single voice part in C major, 4/4 time. It consists of 16 measures of music. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures. There are three triplets marked with a '3' over the notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

### FIRST LESSON:

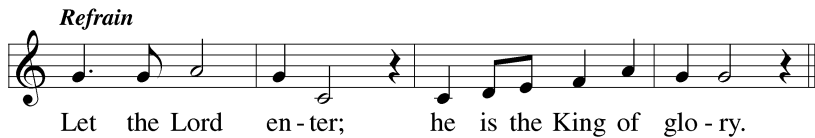
**ISAIAH 63: 16B, 17; 64: 1 – 8**

*Throughout history he has promised to come in grace to rescue those who are ready and to come in judgment on those who could not be bothered with him. In the Old Testament he came in his mighty acts to rescue the Church always on the brink of perishing among those who did not watch and did not prepare*

***Our Redeemer from everlasting is your name. Why do you cause us to wander from your ways, Lord? Why do you harden our heart so that we do not fear you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your heritage.***

***Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down. Mountains then would quake because of your presence. As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil, make your name known to your adversaries. Then nations would quake in your presence. You did amazing things that we did not expect. You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence. From 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. You 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? All 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. There 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. But now, Lord, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand.***

*Refrain*

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,\*  
 the world, and all who live in it;  
 for he founded it upon the seas\*  
 and established it upon the waters.  
 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?\*  
 Who may stand in his holy place?  
 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,\*  
 he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

*Refrain*

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,\*  
 that the King of glory may come in.  
 Who is this King of glory?\*  
 The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.  
 Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,\*  
 that the King of glory may come in.  
 Who is he, this King of glory?\*  
 The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain***SECOND LESSON****1 CORINTHIANS 1: 3 – 9**

*Since he is most surely coming, how shall we watch and how shall we prepare, so that his coming to us will be in grace and not in judgment? He has not left us on our own when it comes to the tools necessary to prepare for his coming. He has given us tools for service as we watch for his coming. Those tools are found in his Word.*

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

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

### VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (Revelation 22:20)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***\*\*Please Stand\*\****

### GOSPEL

### MARK 13: 32 - 37

*Those who are busy doing their own thing, serving self, looking only for the cute and entertaining things that have become such a part of the world's Christmas culture, will not be ready for either his coming in grace or his coming in judgment.*

***"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. It 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. Therefore 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. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!"***

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## HYMN OF THE DAY:

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

#2



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the  
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the  
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -  
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
Spir - it of our God Was the Word of  
vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the  
cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing  
God the Son, our King, Praise to God the



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.  
God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!  
death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!  
Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Ambrose, 340–97, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76, alt.  
Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

## SERMON TEXT

MARK 13: 32 - 37

## SERMON:

WATCH! OUR SAVIOR COMES

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

## NICENE CREED

**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.**

***\*\*Please Be Seated\*\****

***OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.***

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT**

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.

**Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.**

Let this be a time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore us to the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of those who have gone before us.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

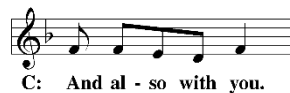
**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## THE 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.

## THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and 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.



### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

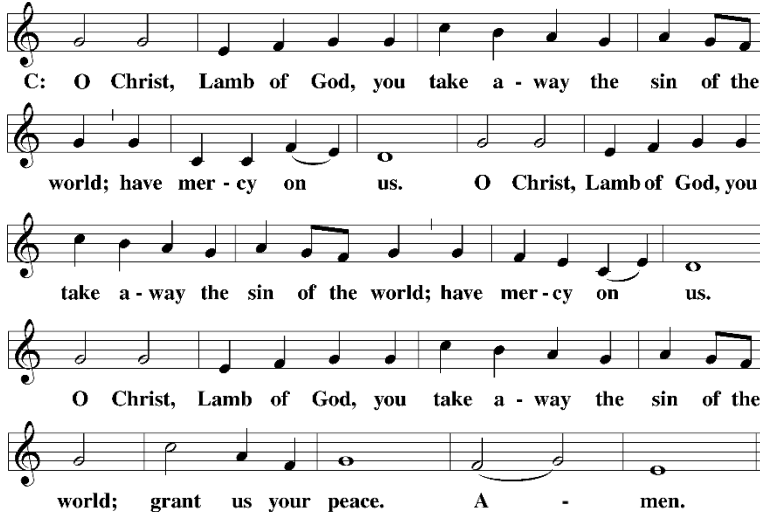
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

### AGNUS DEI




**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN


JESUS PRICELESS TREASURE

#363


*Refrain*



The King of glo-ry comes; the na-tion re-joic-es.




O-pen the gates be-fore him; lift up your voic-es.



1 Who is the King of glo-ry? How shall we call him?  
2 In all of Gal-i-lee, in cit-y or vil-lage,  
3 He gave his life for us, the lamb of sal-va-tion;  
4 He con- quered sin and death; he tru- ly has ris-en,

*Refrain*



He is Im-man-u-el, the prom-ised of a-ges.  
He goes a-mong his peo-ple, cur-ing their ill-ness.  
He took up-on him-self the sin of the na-tions.  
And he will share with us his heav-en-ly king-dom.

Text: Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, alt. © 1966, 1985 Willard F. Jabusch (admin. OCP Publications).

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Tune: PROMISED ONE (12 12 with Refrain) Israeli melody, 20th century.

## DISTRIBUTION


***DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.***

***\*\*Please Stand\*\****

## THANK THE LORD



C: 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.



### CLOSING PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### BLESSING

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.



***\*\*Please Be Seated\*\****

# CLOSING HYMN:

#472

## RISE, MY SOUL, TO WATCH AND PRAY



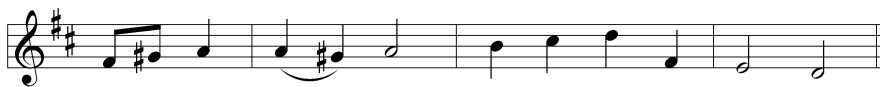
1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a -  
2 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de -  
3 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you  
4 But while watch - ing al - so pray To the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a -  
feat you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be -  
tri - fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's  
ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and



wares o'er - tak - en. For the foe, Well we know, Is a  
tray and cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less  
mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your  
faith in - creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.  
friends to charm you Who but seek to harm you.  
hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.  
nite to serve him And for - ev - er love him.

Text: Johann B. Freystein, 1671–1718, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: STRAF MICH NICHT (76 76 33 66) *Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien*, Dresden, 1694, alt.

## What We Believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Advent Services** – Our focus of our Advent Services “The Father’s plan of salvation is sending His Son; His Son comes as...” We will consider:

December 6 – Jeremiah 2 “Our thirst Quenched by the Living Water”

December 13 – Isaiah 9 “The light overcomes the darkness.” (We still need a volunteer for soup)

Christmas Eve – Jeremiah 23 “Our shepherd leads us”

Christmas Day (10:30) – John 1 “The Word has come”

Our midweek will have a soup supper prior to the service at 6 pm; with the service at 7 pm. Christmas Eve services will also be at 7 pm with cookies and treats afterwards.

**Christmas Service Schedule** – We will have our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm. Our Christmas day service will be 10:30 am with no Bible study or Sunday School on Christmas day. Since we have only two children in our congregation, it is time to be a child again, and overcome all the fears you had of presenting the Christmas story, or maybe you did not get to be in the program as a child. Here is your opportunity to bless our congregation, Pastor Emmons is looking for readers to volunteer to read (you don’t even have to memorize this time.)

**Council Meeting** – Our next council meeting is scheduled for 6 pm Friday, December 8, at the pastor’s home. If members of the congregation have any concerns, don’t hesitate to get in touch with a member of the council: Mitch Brayton (president), Mike Hansen (vice-president), Charlie Vandelicht (secretary), Greg Port (treasurer), Gene Baldwin (elder).

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** –For the Month of December we are going to return our attention to where we left off in the book of Acts. Email any questions or topics to Pastor Emmons. Please feel free to come and go as you like; all reading is voluntary.

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