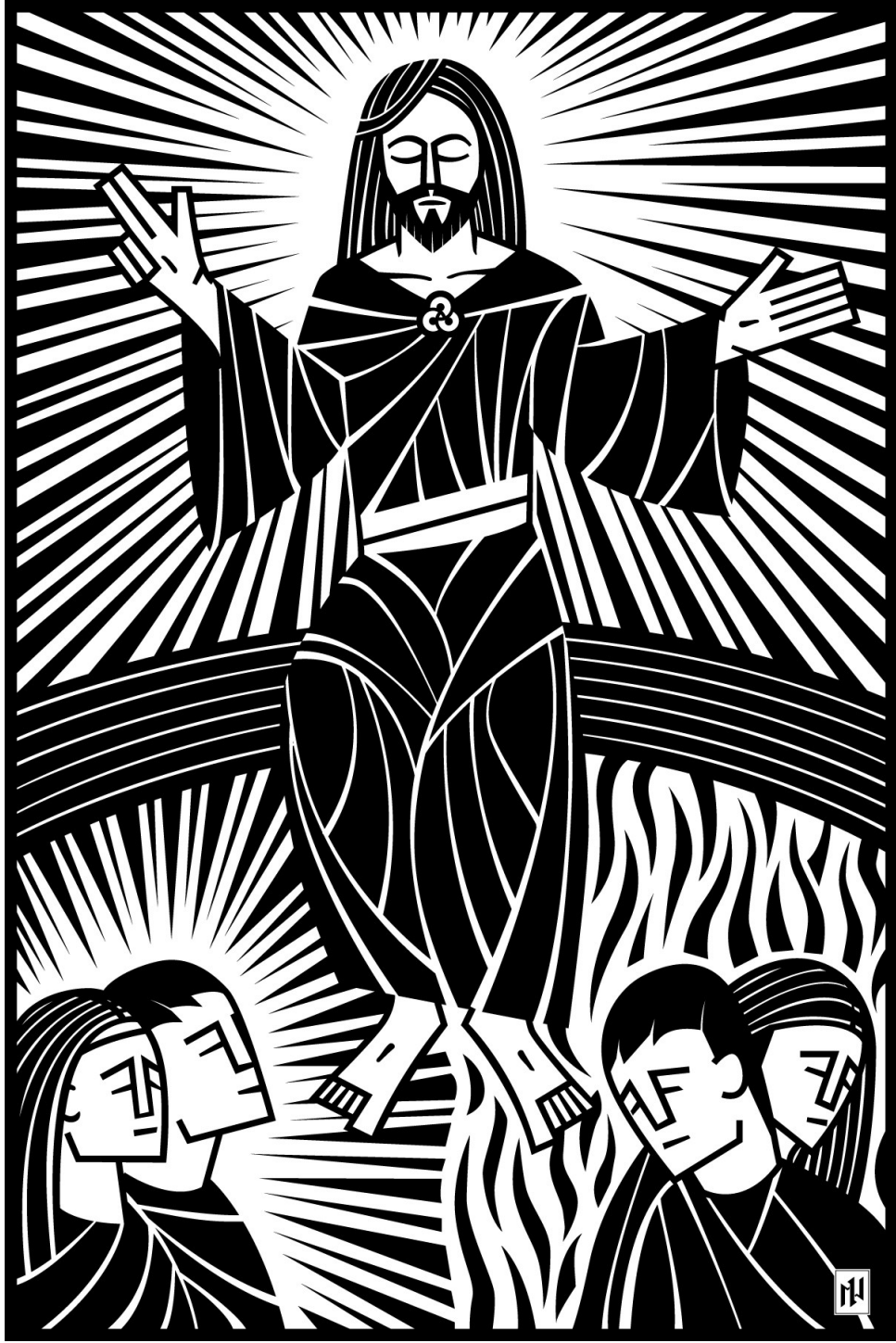




St. Paul Lutheran Church

The First Sunday of Advent — November 27, 2022





ST. PAUL CLINTONVILLE

31 North Park St
Clintonville, WI 54929
www.stpaulclintonville.com

Pastor Caleb Rothfuss
Cell: (989) 220-8833
Church Office: (715) 460-3143

Welcome Guests...

We are honored to have you with us here at St. Paul in Clintonville!

- **Guest Book:** Please sign our guest book near the doors to the worship area.
- **Restrooms:** If you need them, there are bathrooms just to the sides of the main entrance doors.
- **Children:** We are grateful and glad that they are here! If you feel the need to, you can take them to the parent's room or to the back gathering area. Let us know if there are other ways we can help you focus on the Word.
- **Changing Table:** If needed these are in the parent's room and downstairs restrooms.
- **Communion:** guests, please talk with our pastor before coming up for communion so that we can talk about what we believe about it first.

This church is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. wels.net



Our focus...

COME, LORD JESUS! - AS KING

Why would the Church Year begin with a gospel reading that describes an event near the very end of Jesus' life—his entry into Jerusalem at the start of Holy Week? Because the events of Palm Sunday serve as a perfect summary of the entire plan of salvation.

It is an odd sight, this man riding into Jerusalem on a baby donkey, to cheers and the celebratory waving of palm branches. Understandably, many asked, "Who is this?" The answer: This is not just a rabbi. This is the King of all Creation. This is God Almighty wrapped in flesh. Yet, he does not enter Jerusalem with all his glory and power on display. The King hides all that and rides into Jerusalem so that he might also be our priest and sacrifice.

This is a King unlike any other ruler who has ever lived. For he is infinitely greater than all other kings, while simultaneously being infinitely humbler. This King is willing to trade his golden crown for one made of thorns. This King comes not demanding our service but to serve us. You look at how good, how loving is this King, and you ask that question upon which eternity hinges. "Who is this?" As we march through this new Church Year, the answer becomes crystal clear. This King is the Savior of the nations.



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The Bible translation used in today's service is NIV 11.

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Morning Prayer

The full liturgy can be found on page 207 of the hymnal.

Hymn 489

The King Will Come at Age's End



1 The King will come at age - 's end, the
 2 The Book of Life will name its names, each
 3 All - glo - rious on his gleam - ing throne, the
 4 And nights of tears, though late and long, will
 5 A - men, a - men! Lord Je - sus, come! My



trum - pets trill, the heav - ens rend, un - veil - ing
 bought by cross - 's bit - ter pain, each inked in
 King will claim his saints, his own, and with them
 dis - ap - pear in splen - did dawn, and deeps of
 Sav - ior fair, come bear me home, for you are



new Je - ru - sa - lem. Al - le - lu - ia!
 blood and sealed in flame. Al - le - lu - ia!
 dwell and make a home. Al - le - lu - ia!
 death will all be gone. Al - le - lu - ia!
 King of kings a - lone! Al - le - lu - ia!

Invocation *Call to Worship*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: **Amen**

Confession and Absolution *based on Psalm 143*

Come, let us humbly approach our God, to whom all hearts are open
and from whom no secrets are hidden.

**O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy,
and in your faithfulness, come to my relief.**

**Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.**

Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you.

**Show me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.**

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

—silence for meditation—

We pray...

**Almighty God, merciful Father,
I, a troubled and repentant sinner,
confess that I have sinned against you
in my thoughts, my words, and my actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart.

I have not loved others as I should.

**I am distressed by the sins that trouble me
and am deeply sorry for them.**

Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins.

Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

Amen

Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will
come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time.

None of us knows what day that will be.

We hear his call to watch.

**We light one Advent candle as a sign
of our watchfulness and waiting.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Prayer and Praise *page 207 of the hymnal*



O Lord, o - pen my lips,



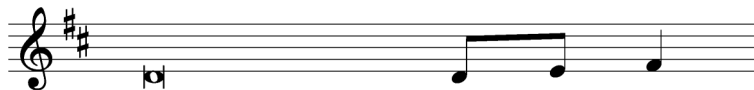
and my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Has - ten to save me, O God;



O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



Advent Rejoice, your King comes to you:

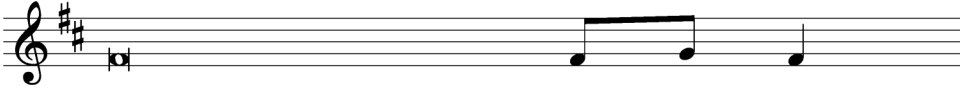


praise and thanks to God!

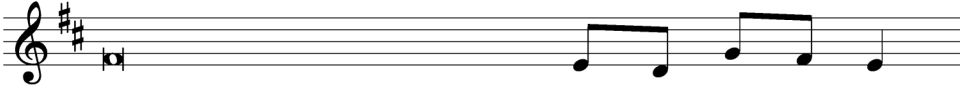


O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord *Venite*

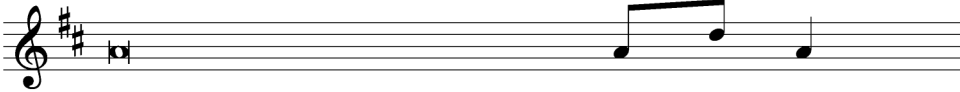
the music for this liturgy song can be found on page 208



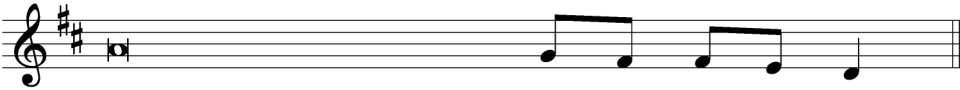
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great _____ God
- 3 The sea is his, for he made _____ it,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and his hand formed the dry _____ land.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
- 2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
- 3 O come, let us worship and bow _____ down,
- 4 For he is our God,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
- 2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
- 3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
- 4 and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his _____ hand.

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.

Amen

Is This Your Future? Isaiah 2:1-5

In the future, when our King comes again, he will transform this world.

¹This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

²In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

³Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80 *spoken responsively*

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.

**You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
awaken your might; come and save us.**

How long, Lord God Almighty,
will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?
**You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.**

You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
**You cleared the ground for it,
and it took root and filled the land.**

Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
**Return to us, God Almighty!
Look down from heav'n and see!**

It's Almost Here! *Romans 13:11-14*

¹¹And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Revelation 22:20*

Alleluia.
He who testifies to these things says,
“Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Alleluia.

Be Ready. *Matthew 24:36-44*

*The King of all Creation comes to us in total humility,
willing to do everything necessary to save us from our sin.*

³⁶“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴²“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!



Hymn 487

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



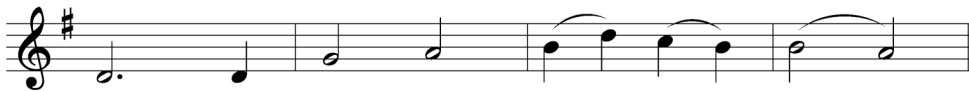
1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee



once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 those who set at naught and sold him,
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
 wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Confession of Faith *Apostles' Creed*

The Apostles' Creed is a brief statement of gospel truths taught by the apostles.

This creed was created to teach and unite Christians in the truth of God's Word.

The Apostles' Creed can be found on page 197 of the hymnal.

Offering

Our offering is our reaction to God's Word. Do not feel obligated to give here, we are just thankful you are here. Your offerings here support the ministry here at this church, along with the mission work of our larger synod.

Te Deum Laudamus *hymn 952*

Praise to You, Eternal Father



1 Praise to you, e - ter - nal Fa - ther! All the earth pro -
2 Praise to you the proph - ets ren - der, no - ble mar - tyrs
3 Praise to you, O Christ our broth - er, glo - rious Son of
4 Praise to you, ex - alt - ed Sav - ior, soon to judge with



claims your hon - or; great, O God, is your ac - claim!
sing your splen - dor, blest a - pos - tles swell the song,
God the Fa - ther— scorn - ing not the vir - gin's womb,
wrath or fa - vor; help your ser - vants, Lord, we pray:



Ev - 'ry an - gel voice is ring - ing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly,
while your Church from ev - 'ry na - tion rais - es praise and
you were cursed for all your crea - tures, o - p'ning heav'n to
by your blood they stand for - giv - en; make them shine as



ho - ly!" sing - ing to the glo - ry of your name.
ad - o - ra - tion which to you a - lone be - long.
all be - liev - ers by your cross and emp - ty tomb.
saints in heav - en, with a glo - ry bright as day.

Prayer of the Church *Setting Three*

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

**Take away our love of sinning,
and restore us each day by your grace.**

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or 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

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake.

Amen.



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 3 You saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth, as he ap - proach - es, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold,
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie Eleison*



Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and an - swer me.



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The Lord's Prayer *the prayer our Savior taught us*

Thanksgiving

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God,
you have brought us safely to this new day.

Defend us with your mighty power,
and grant that this day we neither fall into sin
nor run into any kind of danger;
and in all we do direct us to what is right in your sight,
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

Blessing



The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



A - men.

Hymn 309

The Advent of Our King



1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son, in flesh con - tent to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain
5 Be - fore the dawn - ing day let sin's dark deeds be gone,
6 All glo - ry to the Son, who comes to set us free,



and we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.
him - self a ser - vant's form puts on to set his ser - vants free.
nor let a faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
and his true mem - bers all u - nite with him in heav'n to reign.
the old self all be put a - way, the new self now put on.
with Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one thro' all e - ter - ni - ty.

WELS Connection *a monthly update highlighting some of the work our larger church body is doing to carry out the mission of the church. Our church supports these efforts through our budgeted mission offering.*





The Prophecy Candle

The first candle we light in the Advent wreath is the Prophecy Candle. This violet candle is also referred to as the Hope Candle. This first candle symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming. Through these prophecies of the Messiah, God's people had hope and confidence in their Savior.