

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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Advent Festival Of Nine Lessons And Carols December 1, 2019

AS WE GATHER

In 1934, sixteen years after he had introduced to King's College, Cambridge, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve, the Dean, Eric Milner-White, composed a further service—a Procession with Carols upon Advent Sunday. His desire for more imaginative forms of worship appears in the preface he wrote to that service: 'In the old English liturgies, the Advent Offices made a preparation for the coming of our Lord to this earth far more vivid and eager than those of our present prayer book. So an Advent carol service, if without precedent, is not without suitability, if it helps to express "the desire of all nations and ages." ' The purpose of the service was not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it.

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Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: "In this Advent"

1 In this Ad - vent, broth - ers, sis - ters, Let us pause and
2 Breth - ren, heed the gra - cious warn - ing Of the day of
so pre - pare That we may greet Christ, our Sav - ior,
Christ's re - turn. Stay a - wake and watch - ful ev - er,
Here in wor - ship and in prayer. He came once, ful - fill - ing
For His ad - vent to dis - cern. Keep your - self a - lert and
prom - ise, And He shall come back a - gain. Dai - ly
read - y; With - out no - tice shall He come Then to



comes He, Word In - car - nate, In our hearts and minds to reign.
ush - er all the faith - ful In - to His e - ter - nal home.

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Opening Sentences *(Matthew 24:42; Romans 13:11; Isaiah 2:4; Psalm 122:1)*

Pastor: Stay awake,

People: for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Pastor: For salvation is nearer to us now

People: than when we first believed.

Pastor: They shall beat their swords into plowshares,

People: and their spears into pruning hooks.

Pastor: I was glad when they said to me,

People: "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Confession and Absolution *(Romans 13:12; Isaiah 2:3)*

Pastor: Our Lord urges us to stay awake and watch for His return, when He will usher in the kingdom of God. Paul tells us to "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

People: In our fallen sinful condition, our thoughts, words, and deeds often reflect the fallen world around us. Heavenly Father, forgive us for Jesus' sake, and by Your Holy Spirit turn our feet to walk in ways pleasing to You. Awaken our faith that we greet Jesus whenever He returns.

Pastor: Our Lord's first coming was to save us—to live and die in our place. When He returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, in which He promised through Isaiah, "He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Sermonette

Exhortation and Prayer

Pastor: Dear People of God...

...And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ Himself has taught us:

People: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Pastor: The Almighty God bless us with His grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

People: Amen.

The First Lesson—Isaiah 40:1-11 God comforts His people and urges them to prepare for their redemption. (Joe Berg)

After the reading:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol: CW 11 “Comfort, Comfort All My People”

**"Comfort, comfort all My people; Speak of peace," so says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows' load.
Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over."**

**All their sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserve His anger He no more will see or heed.
They have suffered many a day; Now their griefs have passed away.
God will change their aching sadness Into ever-springing gladness.**

**John the Baptist's voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.**

**Straighten out the crooked highway; Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, Ready for His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That His word is never broken.**

**The Second Lesson—Jeremiah 23:5, 6 God will raise up for David a righteous branch.
(John Lester)**

After the reading:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: LSB 342 “What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”

**What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!**

**A shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stem, A branch from David’s line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God’s design.**

**As banner of God’s love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world Would rally to the cross.**

**Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel’s flaming sword—Come, open heaven’s door.**

The Third Lesson—Jeremiah 31:31-34 God promises a new covenant to be written in the hearts of His people. (John Landenberger)

After the reading:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: CW 6 “Come, O Long Expected Jesus”

**Come, O long-expected Jesus, Born to set Your people free;
From our sins and fears release us By Your death on Calvary.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope to all the earth impart,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born Your people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Your gracious kingdom bring.
By Your own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Your all-sufficient merit Raise us to Your glorious throne.**

The Fourth Lesson—Isaiah 35:1-10 God will prepare a way in the wilderness for His people. (Mike Spangle)

After the reading:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol : CW 13 “There’s A Voice in the Wilderness Crying”

**There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway, A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places Where the Lord our God may go!**

**O Christians, you bring good tidings; Get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people The coming of their king.
Like the flow’rs of the field they perish; Like grass their works decay.
The pow’r and pomp of nations Shall pass like a dream away;**

**But the Word of our God is eternal; The arm of the Lord is strong.
He stands in the midst of the nations, And He shall right the wrong.
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, The lambs shall gently hold,
To pastures of peace shall lead them, And bring them safe to His fold.**

The Fifth Lesson—Isaiah 7:10-15 The Lord promises that a Son will be conceived and His name will be Emmanuel. (Craig LaPlante)

After the reading:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol: CW 23 “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

(Sunday School and Preschool Children sing verse 1 and the refrain; People sing verses 2, 3 & 4; Children only sing the refrain after verses 2-4.)

(Children)

*Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to You, O Israel!*

(People)

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

(Children)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to You, O Israel!

(People)

**Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.**

(Children)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to You, O Israel!

(People)

**Oh, 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.**

(Children)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to You, O Israel!

The Sixth Lesson—Micah 5:2-4 The One who will be ruler over Israel will be born in Bethlehem. (Ken Sarvady)

After the reading:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol: CW 65 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

The Seventh Lesson—Isaiah 11:1-9 The Branch of Jesse shall come with righteousness to save. (John Lester)

After the reading:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol: CW 47 “Behold, A Branch Is Growing”

**Behold, a Branch is growing Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sang, foreknowing; It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little flow'r In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.**

**Isaiah had foretold it In words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold it, A virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will This child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.**

**O Savior, Child of Mary, Who felt our human woes,
O Savior, King of glory, Who conquered all our foes,
Bring us at last, we pray, To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.**

The Eighth Lesson—Luke 1:5-25 An angel announces the birth of John, the forerunner of the Messiah. (Craig LaPlante)

After the reading:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol: CW 275 “Blest Be the God of Israel” (The Song of Zechariah)

**Blessed be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us free;
He visits and redeems us; He grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, Of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill His promise And bring His people peace.**

**He from the house of David A child of grace has given;
A Savior comes among us To raise us up to heav'n.
Before Him goes His herald, Forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, The harbinger of day.**

**On prisoners of darkness The sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness Upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims Along the paths of peace.
Oh, bless our God and Savior With songs that never cease!**

The Ninth Lesson—Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel announces that Jesus will be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Joe Berg)

After the reading:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol: CW 24 “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

**"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall praise and magnify His holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!**

**Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

Offering—“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”—played by New Life’s Tone Chime Choir

Advent Greeting

Greet one another with the Advent greeting, “The peace of Christ be with you this Advent Season!” or another appropriate expression of peace.

Pastor: O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of Your Son our Lord; that, when He shall appear, He may not find us sleeping in sin but active in His service and joyful in His praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, be not dismayed;

People: Go forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.

Pastor: Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.

People: Go forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: Go forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.

Pastor: We wait for Your loving-kindness, O Lord.

People: In the midst of Your temple.

Pastor: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: Jesus said, “Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.

People: Amen.

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol: CWS 703 "My Soul in Stillness Waits"

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits,

tru-ly my hope is in you.

Verses

1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our
 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -
 4 O Key of Know - ledge, guide us in our

glo - ry, Your ra - diance shines in all who look to
 spir - its. Our thirs - ty hearts are yearn - ing for your
 in us, And in your ad - vent draw us all to
 pil - grim - age, We ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -

you. Come, light the hearts of all in dark and
 Word. Come, make us whole, be com - fort to our
 you, Our hope re - born in dy - ing and in
 main. O - pen to us the path - way of your

To Refrain

sha - dow.
 hearts.
 ris - ing.
 peace.

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Dressel

Today— ADVENTFEST NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS AT 9:30 AM
ADVENT CRAFTS FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY AT 10:45 AM
NO Confirmation Class

Monday—Pastor's Circuit Meeting in Round Lake at 9:30 AM

Tuesday—Church Council at 7:00 PM
Branch Connection Christmas Party at 7:00 PM

Friday—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM

Next Sunday— Choir Practice at 8:45 AM
Communion Service at 9:30 AM
Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:45 AM
Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. A new sheet has been posted for the new year. Thanks to those who have signed up! Please pick a Sunday and sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the lower level and be sure to spend a couple of minutes with fellow believers after church today.

Adult Bible Class will meet in the New Life Café this morning at 10:45 AM. Class is using the *Growing in Grace* catechism curriculum.

Work has begun on songs and recitation for the Children's Christmas Eve Service. It is VERY IMPORTANT to have your child in Sunday School every Sunday from now until Christmas.

The Branch Connection will be hosting their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00 PM. The ladies will be putting together jars of cookie mix for making homemade cookies. Jars will go for a suggested donation of \$10 each and the proceeds will be added to the Sunday School mission money to support the WELS in Novosibirsk, Russia. The jars make great Christmas gifts for friends and co-workers. Those attending the party are asked to bring an appetizer to share and a gift (\$15 value) for our gift exchange. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the lower level. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend!

Thank you to all who helped make Thanksgiving with the Sailors a HUGE success!

If you like to purchase a poinsettia to adorn the Lord's chancel on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, please sign-up on the sheet in the lower level. Cost for each poinsettia is \$8. Checks can be made to Kelly Daugherty.

Our Faithfulness to God's Word last Sunday: 48

