

† Advent IV †



**“Judgment for the Saints”
Daniel 7—9**

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | December 20, 2020

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Remembering Our Baptism Journey

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism.** ✠ Through your Son, whose example we follow, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and control.** ✠ Through your Spirit, who dwells among us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.** ✠ We pray that you will complete this work of Baptism within us, ✠ **as we daily surrender to you and listen to your every word.**

(the Advent candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is coming among us)

♫ Oh come, oh king of nations bind, in one the hearts of all mankind. Bid all our sad divisions cease, and be yourself our king of peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel has come to us and God is with us now! ♪ (tune: LSB 357)

Surrendering to the Creator

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ✠ **we surrender our minds, bodies, and whole lives to you.**

(we make the sign of the cross, touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

We let go of control ✠ **and submit ourselves into your loving hands.** ✠ We leave behind our people-pleasing ✠ **and seek only your approval.** ✠ We walk away from our reliance on self, family, and nation ✠ **and trust you for everything we need.** ♫ *Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♫ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♫ Take my things and my money, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how, to love all creation now. ♫ (tune: LSB 783)*

Advent Litany

We are burdened by the past, ✠ **Jesus bring healing peace to our yesterdays.**

We are stressed in the present, ✠ **Jesus bring living peace to us today.**

We are worried about the future, ✠ **Jesus bring peace to us for tomorrow.**

Song ✠ GC2 527 “Canticle of the Turning”

♫ Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me. And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight. Could the world be about to turn? (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN: My heart shall sing of the day you bring, let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

♪ *From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (REFRAIN)*

♪ *Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (REFRAIN)*

Prayer of the Day

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, help us to trust that you will always step in and rescue your faithful people. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

(sit)

Listening to the Creator

We gather at the feet of our Lord Jesus, listening to his word and allowing it to change and shape our minds, decisions, and lives. ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind.* ♪ (tune: LSB 770)

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Pinian & Melania

Father, we give you thanks for your Spirit-filled saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Pinian and Melania who heard the call of Jesus in 410 AD and proceeded to release their 8000 slaves and give away their vast fortunes in order to care for the poor in the community of Jesus. They went on to live lives of poverty and service within the Christian communities they founded. Help us learn from their faith and example, **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 58*



♪ *Do human rulers ever | speak the truth?
* Do humans judge people | with fairness?
No, in your hearts you devise | injustice,
* and your hands bring violence | on the earth.
Even from birth the wicked | go astray,
* from the womb they are wayward, | spreading lies.
O Lord, let them vanish like water that | flows away,
* when they attack, let their violence | come up short. ♪*

Law & Prophets ✠ Daniel 7:7-27

The Prophets reading comes from Daniel 7. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**
This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

Epistle ✠ 2 Corinthians 3:7—4:6

The epistle reading comes from 2 Corinthians 3. ✠ **We listen with open hearts.**
This is the word of our Creator. ✠ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(stand)

✠ Holy Gospel ✠

As we await the coming of Jesus, we omit the Gospel reading and pause to yearn for his coming. *(brief silence)* Come quickly Lord Jesus. **Amen, come quickly Lord Jesus.**

(sit)

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Let us reflect on how the word of Jesus is speaking into our lives this day.

(silence for reflection)

For serving the false gods of self, family, and nation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ✠ **Father, forgive us.**
✠ For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For not living in restful harmony with land, animals, and each other, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For not listening to and caring for our fathers and mothers in Christ, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For trying to possess and control your creation, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠
Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ *Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.* ♪ *(tune: LSB 449)*

Will you turn away from the Way of Civilization and reaffirm the Creator's claim upon you through your Baptism into the Way of Jesus? ✠ **Yes, I renounce the Way of Civilization and pledge my full allegiance to Jesus.** ✠
Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ✠ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ✠
Our heavenly Father heals all those who return to his loving arms. You are forgiven and set free from all slavery to live life in the Way of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! ✠ **Amen.**

(stand)

Song ✕ *LSB 355 “O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”*

- ♪ *O Savior, rend the heavens wide; Come down, come down with mighty stride; Unlock the gates, the doors bread down; Unbar the way to heaven’s crown. ♪*
- ♪ *O Father, light from heaven send; As morning dew, O Son, descend. Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring; To Jacob’s line rain down the King. ♪*
- ♪ *O earth, in flow’ring bud be seen; Clothe hill and dale in garb of green. Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare, Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair. ♪*
- ♪ *O Fount of hope, how long, low long? When will You come with comfort strong? O come, O come, Your throne forego; Console us in our vale of woe ♪*
- ♪ *O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold Your dawn? O Sun, arise; without Your light We grope in gloom and dark of night. ♪*
- ♪ *Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies; Grim death looms fierce before our eyes. O come, lend us with mighty hand From exile to our promised land. ♪*
- ♪ *There shall we all our praises bring And sing to You, our Savior King; There shall we laud You and adore Forever and forevermore. ♪*

Waiting on the Creator

♪ *Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do. ♪ Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen. ♪ (tune: LSB 637)*

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪

Our Father in heaven, make your name holy, bring your Rule, make your will be done—on earth as in heaven. ✕ Father, heal your creation that we have harmed and destroyed by reuniting heaven and earth through Jesus and your Spirit. Bring your loving discipline, judgment, and peace upon us, all those in authority, and all creation. Open the hearts of all, so we may trust and obey the word of Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Give us this day our daily bread. ✕ Father, be our provider and protector. Take care of us and heal our brokenness. Especially, we remember Charlene Sargent, Jack Wagner, Georgia & Jamey Story, Maggie Belcher, Sue Loehr, Jan Zugelder, Ron Wagner, Polly Browne, Jay Hastings, COVID-19 victims, the Disciple Garden, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us. ✕ Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our addictions to Civilization’s Way so we may walk in Jesus’s Way. Empower us to

forgive the debts and sins of all who repent, even our enemies, in the same way you have forgiven us. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ☩ Father, grow our trust in you and keep us from being tested when we are not yet ready. Free us from fear, self-indulgence, competition, ownership, and violence. Comfort us in the hope that your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever. ☩ Father, we thank you for all that you give—life, daily provision, and salvation from death and slavery. Empower us to celebrate your love through a life of patient courage, self-discipline, humility, generosity, and kindness. Help us to let go of being in charge so we might entrust our lives fully into your hands, trusting that you work all things to the good of those who love you. ☩ **Amen.**

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord's Peace

We prepare to be united as one Body and communion at the Lord's table by sharing with each other the peace and love our Father has freely given to us.

(sit)

Offering

Everything belongs to our Father and is to be used to love each other in the same way Jesus has loved us. Therefore, we offer our entire lives as a living sacrifice to him while also offering gifts to support this communion.

Musical Offering

(stand)

Pledge of Allegiance

♪ We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us! ♪ (tune: LSB 816)

Lord Jesus, we pledge our obedience and every part of our lives to you...

I pledge allegiance to God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I pledge allegiance to Jesus the Christ, who is God's only Son and my Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day he rose from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. He is coming to judge the living and the dead.

I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and life with God, now and always. Amen.

Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Lift up your hearts! ✠ **We lift them to the Lord!** ✠ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ✠ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ✠ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ✠ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ✠ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation!

♪ Joyful, joyful we adore you, Creator of all that lives! Earth and heaven praise and thank you, for your love and all you give! Fields and forests, fruit trees and birds, thunderstorms and starry skies, seas and mountains, and grazing herds, praising you who never dies! ♪ (tune: LSB 803)

† Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. He said, "Follow my example. Love each other in the same way I have loved you." During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory." After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, "This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory." *♪ When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus. So as we share this feast may we, remember your love for us. Help us now to follow your Way, and to walk in your goodness. Always make us one in you. ♪ (tune: LSB 384)*

Invitation to the Table

We gather around Jesus's table, trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion. As we receive the Lord's gifts, we commit ourselves to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the same Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us. We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion of heaven and earth. *♪ Oh come, Lord Jesus, come and dine, and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov'r all the earth. Come now! Come now! Our Lord Jesus, and bring your healing love to us! ♪ (tune: LSB 357)*

(sit)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

(stand)

Sent to "Do the Same in My Memory"

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the bread of life ✠ **your body, given for us.** ✠ You judge us and heal us with your love and mercy ✠ **your blood, shed for**

us. ✠ Now help us to do the same in your memory ✠ as we care for our own bodies, share our whole lives with the church, and serve all your creation. ✠ Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit so we may always reflect your love. ✠ Amen.
♪ *Hark the glad sound the Savior comes the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and every voice a song. ♪ He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield. ♪ He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor. ♪ (tune: LSB 349)*

Blessing

May the Father bless you and hold you in his hands. May the Son empower you to love all his creation in the way he has loved you. May the Holy Spirit fill your body and give you a peace that is free of all anxiety. ✠ Amen.

Song ✠ *LSB 354 "Arise, O Christian People"*

- ♪ *Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today; Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes you sins away. To us by grace alone The truth and light were given; The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown. ♪*
- ♪ *Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best. Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav'nly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising, The heights of pride abasing, His path, all even lay. ♪*
- ♪ *The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high; Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie. The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation And makes true preparation--It is the Lord's delight. ♪*
- ♪ *Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside, And help me to receive You This blessed Advent-tide. From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me; I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show. ♪*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Scripture Study - Wednesdays at 6:00 pm we are going through Hebrews (off Dec 23 & 30).
- Table Talk - Join us on Mondays at 6:00 pm for our table talk discussions (off Dec 28).
- Christmas Eve Festival - Thurs, Dec 24, 6:30 pm

Weekly Calendar | December 20 - 27, 2020

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| Sun Dec 20 | 8:30-9:10 am | Individual Confession & Forgiveness |
| | 9:30 am | The Divine Liturgy "Judgment for the Saints" Daniel 7-9 |
| | 10:45 am | Food & Fellowship |
| | 11:15 am | Text of the Day Study |
| Mon Dec 21 | 8:30-11:30 am | Pastor Luke's Office Hours |
| | 6:00 pm | Table Talk |
| Tues Dec 22 | 8:30-11:30 am | Pastor Luke's Office Hours |
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| Wed Dec 23 | 8:30-11:30 am | Pastor Luke's Office Hours |
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| Thurs Dec 24 | 6:30 pm | Christmas Eve "Generosity & Truth" John 1 |
| Fri Dec 25 | | Pastor Luke's Sabbath |
| Sat Dec 26 | | |
| Sun Dec 27 | 8:30-9:10 am | Individual Confession & Forgiveness |
| | 9:30 am | The Divine Liturgy "Into the Light" John 2-3 |
| | 10:45 am | Food & Fellowship |
| | 11:15 am | Text of the Day Study |

Thought of the Week

"We should be obedient to God rather than those who have arrogantly made themselves leaders. We will bring great danger upon ourselves if we surrender ourselves to the purposes of men." (1 Clement)

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