



Union Lutheran Church

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1st Week of Advent

A Little Child Shall Lead Them

December 5 and 6, 2023

6:30 p.m. Tuesday Worship

10:30 a.m. Wednesday Worship

Prelude

During the prelude, the offering is collected.

Welcome & Announcements

OPENING LITANY

P Let us quiet our minds and hearts and observe a few moments of silence.

Silence is kept for meditation, centering ourselves, and preparation for worship.

P O Lord, open my lips,

C **And my mouth will declare your praise.** (Psalm 51)

P Make haste, O Lord, to deliver me.

C **May all who seek you rejoice and be glad.** (Psalm 70)

P Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

C **As it was in the beginning, is now and forever, world without end.
Amen. Thanks be to God.**

C **There is a child who leads us on**



The path to God's own grace.

**Forgive us, Lord, through your Good will,
Revealed in Jesus' face.**

melody: Hark, the Glad Sound

P The prophet Isaiah said that the wolf would lie down with the lamb and the calf with the lion.

C The promise of the Prince of Peace was foretold.

P There will be no war or division or strife.

C For the little Child is the Lord of my life.

C He is the Son of God, the Lord,



Who makes the way for me.

He takes away my sin and shame,

That I might be set free.

melody: Hark, the Glad Sound

P The coming of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might was declared ages ago.

C The little Lord Jesus calms our minds.

P The Lord judges with love and fills the earth with righteousness.

C The Child of Heaven blesses us.

C There was a prophet long ago,



Who said Good News would shine.

We wait with patience for that day

When Jesus says, "You're mine!"

melody: Hark, the Glad Sound

P The Baby Jesus removes all fear and gives us strength and help.

C This Little Savior is our King from the line of David, and he is the Ruler of all.

C The Promised One, who was above,



Is born in Bethlehem.

The little child of lowly birth

Is branch of Jesse's Stem.

melody: Hark, the Glad Sound

Light one candle on the Advent wreath.

Light in the Fellowship Hall is dimmed.

Silence is observed.

Prayer of the Day

P So my fruitfulness is never mine alone. It is shared with others, and, most of all, with you. So, dear Lord, as I rejoice when my work is fruitful, may I also be thankful for your grace at work in me, through me, and all around me.

C Amen.

WORD

First Lesson: Acts 2:38-42

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Psalm 4

¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! ² O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah* ³ But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself, the LORD hears when I call to him. ⁴ Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah* ⁵ Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD. ⁶ There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!” ⁷ You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. ⁸ In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Second Lesson: James 1:16-18

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Reflection

Pastor Heidi Punt


Hymn: *The Advent of Our God (stanzas 1, 5-6)*

LBW# 22

1 The advent of our God Shall be our theme for prayer;

 **Come, let us meet him on the road
And place for him prepare.**

5 Before the dawning day Let sin be put to flight;

 **No longer let the law hold sway,
But walk in freedom's light.**

6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,

 **With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

L Let us gather our hearts together as one and offer our prayers to God.

Ask your neighbor at the table how you can pray for them and as a table pray for each other concluding the prayer time with the following response.

L Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Christ, have mercy on us.**

L Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy.

C **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**

L O God, from you comes all efforts and all desires to do what is holy in this human life. You are the One source of anything good we might ever accomplish. Grant us your everlasting peace which cannot be obtained anywhere else but in you. Stir up our hearts so that we might be obedient disciples of your Son. Defend us from all harm, cast out fear, and protect us from our enemies, so that we may spend this night in quiet and rest. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P As you go from this place, remember that with God a Little Child shall lead us. May God the Father, Son, ✝ and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)

C **Amen.**

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us this week!

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (p. 77-97)

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