

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am

First Sunday of Advent

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We Prepare Our Hearts

"The LORD is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him."

Habakkuk 2.20

Preparation for Worship

9:30/11:00

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Hopson

High School Ensemble, Covenant Choir, Chapel Choir

Claire Jennings, Faith Jennings, Evelina Johnston, Lily Webster, *Handbells*

Lynda Fray, *director*

We Come to Worship at His Bidding

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!"

Call to Worship:

The Rev. Ron Williams 8:00

The Rev. Mark Davis 9:30/11:00

Minister: I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.

People: **The LORD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.**

Minister: The LORD is a Man of war; the LORD is His name.

People: **Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.**

Exodus 15.1-6

We Praise and Profess Our Faith in God

"My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever." Psalm 145.21

***Hymn No. 196**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Profession of Faith**

The Rev. Julian Russell 8:00
The Rev. Paul Goebel 9:30
The Rev. Tommy Overton 11:00

Minister: What comfort is it to you that Christ “shall come to judge the living and the dead”?

People: That in all my sorrows and persecutions, I, with uplifted head, look for the very One, who offered Himself for me to the judgment of God, and removed all curse from me, to come as Judge from heaven, who shall cast all His and my enemies into everlasting condemnation, but shall take me with all His chosen ones to Himself into heavenly joy and glory.

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 52

***Hymn**

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

REGENT SQUARE



1. Lo! He comes with clouds de-scend-ing, once for fa-vored sin-ners slain;
2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be-hold Him, robed in dread-ful maj - es - ty;
3. Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion still His dazz-ling bo - dy bears,
4. Yea, a - men! Let all a - dore Thee, high on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou-sand thou-sand saints at-tend-ing swell the tri - umph of His train:
those who set at naught and sold Him, pierced, and nailed Him to the tree,
cause of end-less ex - al - ta - tion to His ran - somed wor-ship-pers:
Sa - vior, take the pow'r and glo - ry: claim the kind - dom for Thine own:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! God ap-pears on earth to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap-ture, with what rap-ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
O come quick-ly, O come quick-ly! Al - le - lu - ia! Come, Lord, come!

Lament: Psalm 143

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Your servant, for no one living is righteous before You. For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done; I ponder the work of Your hands. I stretch out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a parched land. Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love, for in You I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to You for refuge! Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God! Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground! For Your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble! And in Your steadfast love You will cut off my enemies, and You will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am Your servant.

Private Confession

Words of Assurance and Comfort of the Gospel

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1.13-14

Carol No. 201

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

Mr. Russell 8:00
Mr. Goebel 9:30
Mr. Overton 11:00

Musical Offering

8:00

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”
Brian C. Post, *solo*

Thiman

9:30/11:00

“Lost in the Night”
Chancel Choir • J. Marty Cope, *director*

Haugen

Lost in the night do the people yet languish, longing for morning the darkness to vanquish, plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish. Will not day come soon?

Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow? Shall those who have light no light let us borrow, giving no heed to our burden of sorrow? Will you help us soon?

Sorrowing wand'ers, in darkness yet dwelling, dawned has the day of a radiance excelling, death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling. Christ is coming soon!

*The Greeting of Peace

Minister: For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Colossians 1.19-20

People: **And also with you.**

The Service of Friendship

If you are seated on the left end of the pew, please take the Service of Friendship pad, fill out the information and pass it down. When it arrives at the other end of the pew, pass it back, taking note of those who are seated in your row.

Children's Sermon

9:30/11:00

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." ¹⁶ To the woman He said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." ²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. ²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

1 John 3.8

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

The Sermon

WHY DID CHRIST COME?
"Christ Came to Destroy the
Works of the Devil"

Mr. Williams 8:00
Mr. Davis 9:30/11:00

— Worshipers at 9:30 and 11:00, continue at closing hymn on page seven —

***The Great Thanksgiving 8:00**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

People: Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name; evermore praising You, and singing:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing 8:00**

***The Words of Institution 8:00**

The Communion 8:00

Please come forward down the center aisle.

Partake of the elements upon receiving them from the elders.

Return to your seat with your empty cup via the side aisle.

*During the serving of Communion,
you may use the following Scripture for private meditation.*

Psalm 101

I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to You, O LORD, I will make music. I will ponder the way that is blameless. Oh when will You come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil. Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure. I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me. No one who practices deceit shall dwell in My house; no one who utters lies shall continue before My eyes. Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked in the land, cutting off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD.

SERMON NOTES

Genesis 3; 1 John 3.8

WHY DID CHRIST COME?

“Christ Came to Destroy the Works of the Devil”

Order of Worship for the Home – The Week of December 2, 2012

Praise

Call to Worship (*everyone together*)

The LORD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” (*read or sing these words together*)

Please see the hymn on page three.

Hearing and Learning God’s Word

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3; 1 John 3.8 (*one person may read the Scripture aloud*)

Questions for Discussion (*may be answered in one worship time or spread over several times*)

1. In Genesis 3, who is the serpent?
2. What is the first question the serpent asks Eve? How did she respond?
3. What does the word *enmity* mean?
4. When God talks about the *seed of the woman*, who is He talking about?
5. How did Jesus *crush the head* and how did the serpent *strike His heel*?
6. Why is all of this important to understand at Christmas?

Questions for older children

1. How does Satan use the same pattern he used with Eve to tempt us?
2. Why is it important to understand Satan's power and the limits of his power?
3. What does it mean to live free from the bondage of sin?
4. What signs do you see all around us that remind us of why Christ came?

Scripture Memory for December: (*memorize these verses of Scripture*)

Matthew 1.20-21

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Prayer

Prayer (*saying together*)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.