

**Order of Worship
for
The Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023**

TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME

"God, the Thief"

2 Peter 3:8-15

*This is the terrible and frightening truth of Advent. Yes, the END is coming. God is coming . . . **like a thief in the night.** His coming could be as close as our the next breath!*

But the message of Advent is not only an ominous warning of what will sneak up on us some night. Advent surely announces that the End is coming, that this old world and its days are numbered. But Advent also announces the coming of a new world,. This is new world will be ours when Jesus "comes again to judge and living and dead." Though no one knows the hour or the day, it will not be as a thief in the night but like the blessed arrival of . . . the police and the EMS . . . just when we thought we were doomed.

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Highest Place"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING & PASSING OF THE PEACE

On this Sunday we gather for worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you!

Please, feel free to pass the peace as you feel comfortable!

HYMN OF PRAISE
“Now the Feast of Celebration”
ELW 167

PRAYER

Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SONG

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Peace

This week we light the Candle of PEACE. We light it knowing that worldly peace is elusive; yet we trust that God is always gently leading us into the way of PEACE.

The word “Advent” means “the Coming.” God, in the form of the Babe of Bethlehem, is coming. Christ, the Prince of PEACE, will come to give us that Divine Peace that is beyond all human understanding.

(Candles of Hope and Peace are lit)

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257

vs 1 & 3

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

**The lesson for today is from Isaiah,
chapter eleven, verses one through ten.**

Isaiah proclaims:

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— ³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING

presented by

King of Glory Choir

under the direction of

Mary Krohn

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15

**The second reading is from the book of 2nd Peter,
the third chapter, verse eight through fifteen.**

Peter writes:

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Steve Albertin

MESSAGE

"God, The Thief"

Rev. Steve Albertin

As we say, "The only constants in life are taxes . . . and death." Oh, how we avoid and deny this.

*Today's 2nd Reading has a very startling image for God in Advent. When God finally comes to wrap things up for this world, it will be **like a thief!***

There are more attractive and appealing images for God, but few are more truthful.

Advent surely announces that the End is coming and that this old world and its days are numbered. But Advent also announces the coming of a new world for which there is no reason to be afraid.

***The Second Coming/Advent** of Jesus will not terrorize us like a thief in the night, but will be as the blessed dawning of a new day, as a baby born in a barn in Bethlehem.*

*Because of the **First Advent** of Jesus we can be sure that, whenever there is the **Second Advent**, that whenever Jesus comes again, it will not be a time to fear. It will be a time to welcome Him with praise and rejoicing.*

*In the meantime, we live **between the two Advents**. God comes to us NOW **in the present!** Therefore, we do not have to fret or worry about the future.*

SONG

"The Hope of Jesse's Tree"

OFFERING

Your offerings are more than just money to keep the lights turned on. Your gifts help to sustain and expand all of our ministries here at King of Glory, including those which provide direct assistance to those in our community who are in need. We are grateful for all of the gifts we receive, and we strive to be good stewards of the resources you provide to us.

If you wish to give online, you can [use our app](#)
Or, go to our website at <https://kogcarmel.org/give>

HYMN

“We Are an Offering”

ELW 692

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
Of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation,
He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*During this time, we pray for all those who need God's blessings, and praise Him
for the blessings He has bestowed upon us.*

*Today we pray for Wes, Bill, Joelyn, Mark, Bob, Alan, Carol, Chris, Tracy,
Ashlee, Soyong, Linda, Jeannie, Joyce, Randy & Mary, Jillian*

*During the prayers, there will be a time of silence, when we offer our personal
prayers to God.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We prepare to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion, by remembering the words and actions of Jesus during the Last Supper.

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome at his table. There, they receive him and the new life he offers.

Those who eat and drink at his table commit themselves to the care and redemption of all that God has made.

If you are not baptized, contact Pastor Albertin to learn how you can receive the great gift God has for you in baptism.

Today you are welcome to join us at Christ's table.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give You our thanks and praise, O God...

Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer You thanks and praise, mixed with the eternal blessings offered even now by Your angels and archangels, as we join them in that praise of You today!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is My body, broken for you. Eat this, and remember Me."

After supper, He took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to all to drink, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant, written in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of all sin. Drink this, and remember Me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are Yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

***For those worshipping in-house,
we invite you to come forward if you wish.
If you prefer to take communion at your seat,
you may do so.***

***For those joining us online,
If you are able,
we invite you to take communion where you are,
using any kind of bread and either wine or grape juice
so that you may receive the body and blood of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus the Christ.***

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now, may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, keep you in His grace and peace, now and forever. Amen!

SONG
“Emmanuel”

BENEDICTION

*May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you God’s peace; in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Minister: Rev. Dr. Steve Albertin
Pianist & Sounds of Glory Director: David Moscrip

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