

Welcome

**Song –**

On this first Sunday in Advent, we light one candle, a candle of hope.  
We hope for peace for our homesick hearts.  
We hope for a world where all homes are places of peace.  
We hope that God would find a worthy home once again in our world,  
in our church, in our homes, and in our hearts.  
On this first Sunday in Advent, we light one candle,  
trusting in Christ our hope.  
Rejoice O Church, **for Christ is coming soon!**  
Rejoice O people, **the Lord is our righteousness!**  
Rejoice believers, **our redemption is here, our redeemer draws near!**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Readings – Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Children's Message

**Song –**

Gospel Reading – The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – Pastor Jess Daum

**Song -**

Offering

**Song (Offering) –**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended  
into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind especially Justin Pederson, Vern Voelzke, Donna Steenson, Ron Lenz, Jenna, Chelsie, Lethe, Bob, and Dee. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, receive our gifts and these prayers, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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.**

### Benediction

As you leave this place, your homework begins:  
Comfort the homesick. Open your homes and hearts to others.  
Seek sanctuary where God offers it.  
Have the courage to go home by another way.  
And remember that in this home, all are welcome, you are welcome.  
So come back home soon.  
And may God our Foundation: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Song –**

### Sending

Go in peace. Make your hearts a home for Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**