



# **The Advent of Justice**

**For What  
Reasons Will  
God Bring  
Judgment?**

**Week #2**

**From What  
Does God  
Save Us?**

**Jesus brings His justice and righteousness  
NOW to work in our lives and  
on the LAST DAY to reign forever and ever**

## **Advent Midweek Devotional Worship Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

---

### **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

**Pastor Ben Squires**

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: [pastor@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:pastor@bethelgurnee.org)

**Cindy Daluga, Disciple Care Coordinator**

[Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org)

**Ben Sanders, Mission Facilitator**

[office@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:office@bethelgurnee.org)

**Website:** [www.BethelGurnee.org](http://www.BethelGurnee.org)

---



## **ADVENT PROPHETS**

*This service draws from readings often used for the weeks of Advent,  
the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth,  
and His Second Advent still to come.*

### **Entrance Words and Invocation**

*based on Jeremiah 33:14-16*

P: “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD.

**C: *When He will fulfill the promise He made to all of His people.***

P: In those days and at that time

the LORD will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.

**C: *That Branch is a son of David. That Branch is Jesus, the Son of God.***

P: The Branch shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**C: *In those days the LORD’s people will be saved  
and His Church will dwell securely.***

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

**C: *The LORD is our righteousness.***

P: What does that name mean?

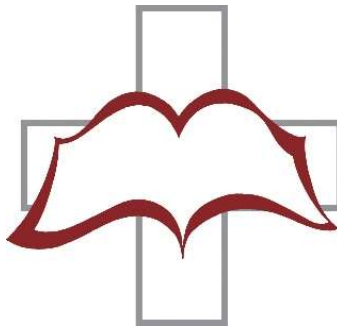
**C: *We, His people, are righteous through His righteousness.  
We are holy because He makes us holy through His Son.***

P: Let us remember our baptisms,

when the Lord became our righteousness...

in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: *Amen!***



---

### **Acknowledgments**

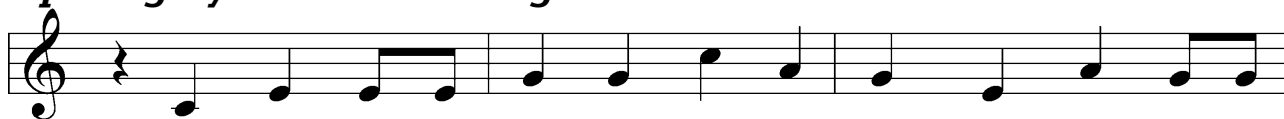
This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.  
Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 000013448.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.  
Scripture quotations in the liturgy are from  
*The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*,  
copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.  
Cover image: “Outsized”, Gurnee, IL. © 2020 BiCS Pics. Design: © 2021 BiCS Pics.



## Opening Hymn

## Sing Praise to the God of Israel

LSB 936



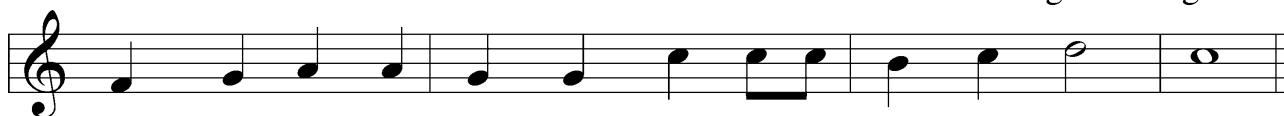
1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His  
2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on  
3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His  
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,  
oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:  
way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,  
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a  
Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -  
His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and  
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!  
liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.  
grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.  
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

Text: © 1992 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267

## Preparation for God's Word

based on Malachi 3:1-7b

P: "Behold, I send my messenger

and he will prepare the way before me," says the Lord.

**C: This is John the Baptist who announced that the Messiah is Jesus.**

P: Shall we rejoice that the LORD has sent His messenger,  
that the Messiah Jesus has come into our midst?

**C: Yes, we shall rejoice; but our sin causes us to fear His coming.**

P: The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

**C: But who can endure the day of his coming,  
and who can stand when he appears?**

**For he is like a refiner's fire**

**burning away the worthless material in us.**

**He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,  
and he will purify us from all our sin.**



P: And the LORD declares to you today  
that His mercies are new every morning. He says:  
“I the LORD do not change;  
therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.  
From the days of your fathers  
you have turned aside from my statutes  
and have not kept them.  
Return to me, and I will return to you,”  
says the LORD of hosts.  
Your LORD has drawn you back to Himself  
through His Son, Jesus.  
You have returned to the LORD  
through the work of the Holy Spirit.  
You have returned and find forgiveness for all of your sins  
In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

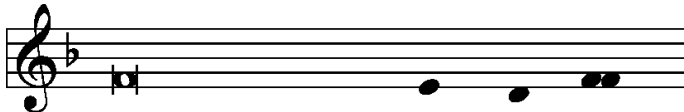
**C: Amen.**

P: And this is the name by which the Church will be called:

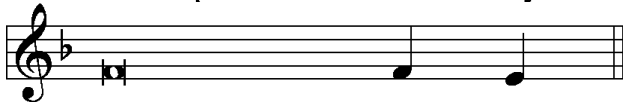
**C: *The LORD is our righteousness. Amen.***

### **Versicles**

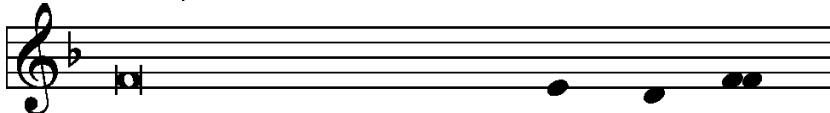
(Advent)



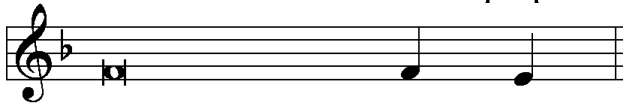
**[L]** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**[C]** Come, Lord Je - sus.



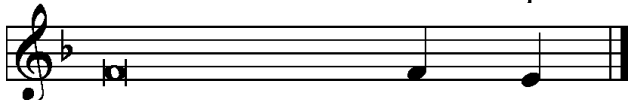
**[L]** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**[C]** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**[L]** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**[C]** Come, Lord Je - sus.



***Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: *And also with you.***

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: *Amen.***

***Epistle (New Testament Letter)***

***Philippians 1:2–11 (ESV)***

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: *Thanks be to God.***

***Introit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent***

*Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon (repeated verse): Luke 3:4b*

P: The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

**C: *“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”***

P: Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!

O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

But my people did not listen to my voice;

Israel would not submit to me.

Oh, that my people would listen to me,

that Israel would walk in my ways!

**C: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

P: The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

**C: *“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.***



## **Holy Gospel**

## **Luke 3:1–20 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

*“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:*

*‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

*<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight,*

*and the rough places shall become level ways,*

*<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

<sup>7</sup>[John] said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**



**Hymn of the Day****On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

LSB 344 sts. 1-4



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.

**A Reading from an Advent Prophet****Malachi 3:1-7b (ESV)**

[And the Lord said through the prophet Malachi]: <sup>1</sup>"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**



**Sermon      “For What Reasons Will God Bring Judgment,  
From What Does God Save Us?”**

**Malachi 3:1-7b**

**Confession of Faith**

**Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.—And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.—I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the Church**

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

**C: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

P: Merciful Father, whose guiding hand has brought us to the completion of this day, we humbly pray You to stay with us and shelter us in quiet hours of this night that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this passing world, may rest in Your changeless peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of other with confidence and compassion; Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive. The day is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Pastor may add other prayers here)*



P: Let us pray together.

C: *I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

(Silence for meditation)

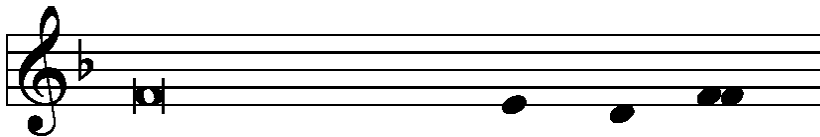
### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

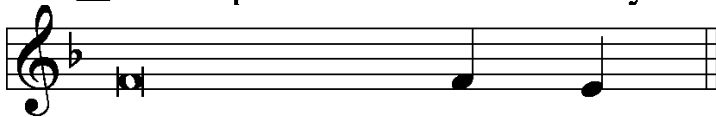
**All:** *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

### **Versicles**

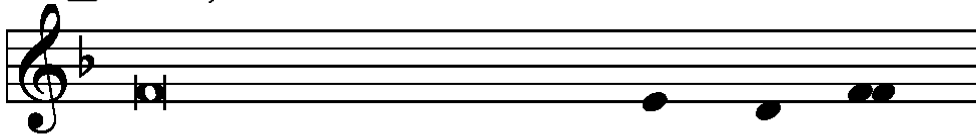
(Advent)



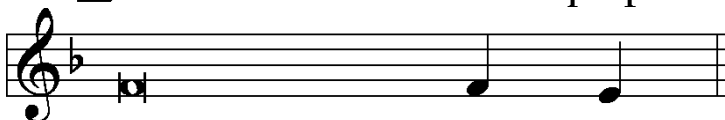
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



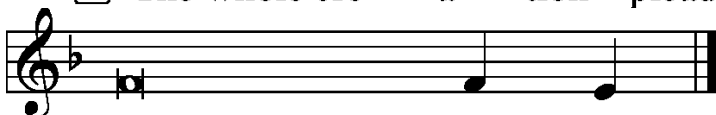
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



## **Benediction**

based on Micah 5:2-5a

P: Jesus shall stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And you, His flock, shall dwell secure,  
for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth.  
And He shall be your peace.  
The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless you and always watch over you.

C: Amen.

## **Closing Hymn**

## **Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

LSB 398, sts. 1-3,5; tune: 527



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,  
3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!  
To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.  
From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,  
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,  
Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.  
Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.  
And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.  
His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

## **Announcements**



# UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



## **Wednesday, December 8**

In-Person Worship\*(In Sanctuary) – 6:30PM

## **Sunday, December 12**

In-Person Worship\*(In Gym) – 9AM

Fellowship 10-10:30AM

Sunday School 10:30-11:30AM

Sunday School Program \*(In Gym) – 4PM

## **Wednesday, December 15**

In-Person Worship\*(In Sanctuary) – 6:30PM

## **Sunday, December 19**

In-Person Worship\*(In Gym w/Communion) – 9AM

Fellowship 10-10:30AM

Sunday School 10:30-11:30AM

## **Friday, December 24**

In-Person Worship\*(In Gym) – 6:30PM

## **Saturday, December 25**

In-Person Worship\*(In Gym w/Communion) – 10AM

## **Sunday, December 26**

In-Person Worship\*(In Gym) – 10AM



Contact the office if you have any questions about the schedule. Ushers, Readers, and various other volunteers are always needed for in-person worship and communion. If you are interested in volunteering for one of those roles, please contact the office at [office@bethelgurnee.org](mailto:office@bethelgurnee.org).

\*For in-person worship and/or communion in the gym and sanctuary, seating and/or communion will be physically distanced with masks required. For in-person worship there will be Live liturgy, readings, sermon, singing and prayers. whenever possible, we will livestream through Facebook each week and will post the recording to the Bethel website.



# THE ADVENT JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

*Reflections on  
T.S. Eliot's Poem  
& Our Journey  
in Jesus*

*Sundays—9:00AM  
Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19*



*Scan to read the  
poem or listen to  
T.S. Eliot read it*



## **The Advent of Justice**

Jesus brings His justice and righteousness  
NOW to work in our lives and  
on the LAST DAY to reign forever and ever

**Wednesday evening devotional worship  
6:30PM in the Sanctuary  
December 1, 8, 15**