

BRANDY MUSLOVSKI

OT PROJECT - 12/2004

Greetings! The holidays are here with us again. All the hustle and bustle of the holidays can be stressful; we get caught up in the shopping making sure we didn't forget anyone on our list. The wrapping, the parties, the chocolate eating!

So take some time this holiday season to remember what the Advent season is really all about. There will be evening services at the church to reflect on the wonderful gift God gave us.

Services will be at 7 pm in the sanctuary with coffee and a light snack after. All are welcome, and childcare will be provided for those who need it. We can't wait to see you there!

## First Wednesday in Advent

Welcome

Opening Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Dear Lord, we thank you for all of your creation and all of the blessings you give us everyday whether we see them or not. We thank you for our loved ones who you continue to bless everyday. Thank you for the blessing of the gift of your son. All this we pray in your name.

**Amen**

Hymn 629 WOV All Earth Is Hopeful

Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,*

*"Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepard; he will gather the lambs of in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.*

Leader: "The Word of the Lord."

Congregation **"Thanks be to God"**

Meditation

Period of Silence for reflection

The Psalm 23 (The Psalm will be read in unison)

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green  
pastures; He leadeth me besides the  
the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul; He leadeth  
me in the paths of  
righteousness for  
His Name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk  
in the valley of the  
shadow of death. I will fear  
no evil, for thou  
Art with me; Thy rod  
and Thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me all the  
days of my life;  
and I will dwell in the  
House of the Lord  
forever.

The Lord's Prayer:

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

Hymn 29 LBW Comfort, Comfort now my people

Blessing and Dismissal

May God Bless and Keep you, may his face shine upon you  
with peace. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Second Wednesday in Advent**

Welcome

Opening Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Let us pray,

Lord God, we praise You that You comforted Your people with the promise of a Redeemer. We praise You that in the fullness of time You sent Your Son and the Redeemer. We praise You that You give promise that You will send Him to us again to judge the world in righteousness. Open our hearts to receive our Redeemer now as He comes to us in Word and Sacrament. Open our eyes in our lives by His grace. Make Advent a blessing to us as we welcome our King in faith and love. We lift up our heads to welcome Him anew. Fill us with gladness as He comes to us.

**Amen**

Hymn                    384 LBW    Your kingdom come, O Father

Lesson:    Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come upon it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: "The Word of the Lord"

Congregation: **"Thanks be to God"**

Meditation

Period of Silence for Reflection

Psalm 65: 5-11 (The Psalm will be read by half verse)

Awesome things will you show us  
in your righteousness,  
**O God of our salvation,**  
**O Hope of all the ends of the earth**  
**and of the seas that are far away.**  
You make fast the mountains  
by your power,  
**They are girded about with might.**  
you still the roaring of the seas,  
**The roaring of their waves,**

**and the clamor of the peoples.**

Those who dwell  
at the ends of the earth  
will tremble at your marvelous signs;  
**you make the dawn and the dusk  
to sing for joy.**

You visit the earth  
and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous;  
**The river of God is full of water.**  
you prepare the grain,  
**for so you provide for the earth.**

You drench the furrows  
and smooth out the ridges;  
**with heavy rain  
you soften the ground  
and bless its increase.**

Luther's Evening Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Ghost.

**Amen**

I thank You, my heavenly Father,  
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,  
that You have graciously kept me this day;  
and I pray You 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,  
m body and soul, and all things.  
Let Your holy angel be with me,  
that the wicked Foe may have  
no power over  
me.

**Amen.**

Hymn          633 WOV      Awake, awake, and greet the new morn

Blessing and Dismissal

Heavenly Father, Creator of all things by Your Word, we  
thank You that You have planted the seed of Your Word in

our hearts and nourished it with Your grace, and that You are able to make the seed bring forth and bud. Root out all matter alien to Your will, cultivate our hearts with Your mercy, and water the seed with the showers of Your love, so will we bring forth the fruits of repentance, of faith and of hope. Hear us for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, who died that He might bring forth life in us.

**Amen**

Third Wednesday in Advent

Welcome

Opening Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. I thank You, 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**

Hymn                    33 LBW        The King Shall Come

Lesson:    Isaiah 65:17-23

*For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one short dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord - and their descendants as well.*

Leader: "The Word of the Lord"

Congregation: **"Thanks be to God"**

Meditation

Period of Silence for Reflection

Psalm 53 (The Psalm will be read responsively by half verse.)

The fool has said in his heart,  
"There is no God."  
**All are corrupt  
and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.**  
God looks down from heaven  
upon us all,  
**To see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.**  
Every one has proved faithless;  
all alike have turned bad;  
**There is none who does good;  
no, not one.**  
Have they no knowledge,  
those evildoers  
**who eat up my people like bread  
and so not call upon God?**  
See how greatly they tremble,  
such trembling as never was;  
**for God has scattered the bones  
of the enemy;  
they are put to shame,  
because God has rejected them.**  
Oh, that Israel's deliverance  
would come out of Zion!  
**When God restores the fortunes  
of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.**

Hymn            313   LBW   A multitude come from east and west

Blessing and Dismissal:

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.

**Amen**

## Fourth Wednesday in Advent

Welcome

Opening Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

God of the covenant, we give You glory and honor for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to fulfill all Your promises. By Your grace send us now Preachers of repentance who will make us now preachers of repentance who will make us a people prepared to receive Him in faith. Lead us to rejoice in His coming in the flesh to accomplish all things for our salvation. Fill us with hope that we may be in constant readiness for the day of His coming again. Grant us Your Spirit that we may live as those who know that He who has come is with us now, that we may be with Him when all shall behold His coming. In His name we ask it.

**Amen**

Hymn                    762 WOV    Hail to the Lord's anointed

Lesson:    Isaiah 11: 1-9

*A Shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots, The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.*

*The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. The will not hurt or destroy all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

Leader: "The Word of the Lord"

Congregation: **"Thanks be to God"**

Meditation

Period of Silence for Reflection

Psalm 17 1-5 read responsively by half verse

Hear my plea of innocence, O Lord;  
give heed to my cry;  
**listen to my prayer,**  
**which does not come from lying lips.**  
Let my vindication come forth  
from your presence;  
**let your eyes be fixed on justice.**  
Weigh my heart, summon me by night,  
**melt me down;**  
**you will find no impurity in me.**  
I give no offense with my mouth  
as others do;  
**I have heeded the words of your lips.**  
My footsteps hold fast  
to the ways of your law;  
**in your paths**  
**my feet shall not stumble.**

Prayer

**Leader:** Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned  
against you this day.  
Some of my sin I know -  
the thoughts and words and deeds of which  
I am ashamed - but

some is known only to you.  
In the name of Jesus Christ I ask  
forgiveness. Deliver and restore me,  
that I may rest in peace.

Hymn            87 LBW        Hail to the Lord's anointed

Blessing and Dismissal:

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia**

Lord thank You for Your gifts of this day. We pray for  
peace in the world and through the night. We pray that You  
favor us with restful sleep that will refresh us and safely  
bring us into the light of the morning.

**Amen**

## Resources

1. Lutheran Book of Prayer; Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri © 1970
2. Luther's Small Catechism - with explanation; Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri © 1986
3. Lutheran Book of Worship; Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis and Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia © 1978
4. Sundays and Seasons 2005, Year A
5. With One Voice: A Lutheran Resource for Worship; Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis © 1995
6. Renewing Worship Songbook: New Hymns and Songs for Provisional Use; Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis; © 2003
7. The Chronicles of Narnia; C. S. Lewis; HarperCollins Publishing, © 1950