

**New Life Ev. Lutheran Church**  
*Lake Zurich, IL*

*...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.*

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**ADVENT FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

December 5, 2021

9:30 AM

**AS WE GATHER**

In 1934, sixteen years after he had introduced to King's College, Cambridge, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve, the Dean, Eric Milner-White, composed a further service—a Procession with Carols upon Advent Sunday. His desire for more imaginative forms of worship appears in the preface he wrote to that service: In the old English liturgies, the Advent Offices made a preparation for the coming of our Lord to this earth far more vivid and eager than those of our present prayer book. So an Advent carol service, if without precedent, is not without suitability, if it helps to express "the desire of all nations and ages."

The purpose of the service was not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it.

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**Pastoral Welcome**

**Invocation**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**Opening Sentences** (*Malachi 3:1, 6; Luke 3:4; Philippians 1:6, adapt.*)

**Pastor:** The LORD says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

**People:** We thank You, O Lord!

**Pastor:** The LORD says, "The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming."

**People:** We adore You, O Lord!

**Pastor:** The LORD says, "I the LORD do not change; therefore you are not consumed."

**People:** We praise You, O Lord!

Pastor: The LORD who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**People: We worship You, O Lord!**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

*Two Advent candles are lit.*

### **Confession and Absolution** (*Romans 13:12; Isaiah 2:3*)

Pastor: Our Lord urges us to stay awake and watch for His return, when He will usher in the kingdom of God. Paul tells us to “cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

**People: In our fallen sinful condition, our thoughts, words, and deeds often reflect the fallen world around us. Heavenly Father, forgive us for Jesus’ sake, and by Your Holy Spirit turn our feet to walk in ways pleasing to You. Awaken our faith that we greet Jesus whenever He returns.**

Pastor: Our Lord’s first coming was to save us—to live and die in our place. When He returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, in which He promised through Isaiah, “He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” As a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Sermonette** (Pastor Bauer)

### **Introduction to the Season of Advent** (by the Pastor) **and the Lord’s Prayer**

**People: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

Pastor: The Almighty God bless us with His grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

**People: Amen.**

**The First Lesson—Isaiah 40:1-11 God comforts His people and urges them to prepare for their redemption. (Mikes Spangle)**

*After the reading*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Carol: CW 11 “Comfort, Comfort All My People” (vs. 1 & 2)**

**"Comfort, comfort all my people; Speak of peace," so says our God.  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows' load.  
Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over."**

**All their sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserve His anger He no more will see or heed.  
They have suffered many a day; Now their griefs have passed away.  
God will change their aching sadness Into ever-springing gladness.**

**The Second Lesson— Jeremiah 23:5, 6 God will raise up for David a Righteous Branch. (Joe Berg)**

*After the reading*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Carol: CW 23 “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”**

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**The Third Lesson—Jeremiah 31:31-34 God promises a new covenant to be written in the hearts of His people. (Brent Anderson)**

*After the reading*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol: “Long In Darkness Israel Wandered”** (*Refrain sung by the preschool and Sunday School kids.*)

**The Fourth Lesson—Haggai 2:6-9 The prophet foretells the Advent of the desire of all nations. (Joe Berg)**

*After the reading*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol : CWS 703 “My Soul in Stillness Waits”** (Follow the lead of the Pastor)

(refrain) **For You, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,  
Truly my hope is in You.**

**O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
Your radiance shines in all who look to You,  
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. (Refrain)**

**O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,  
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for Your Word,  
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. (Refrain)**

**O Root of Life, implant Your seed within us,  
And in Your advent draw us all to You,  
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising. (Refrain)**

**O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,  
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain,  
Open to us the pathway of Your peace. (Refrain)**

**The Fifth Lesson—Micah 5:2-4 The One who will be ruler over Israel will be born in Bethlehem in Judah. (Pastor Bauer)**

*After the reading*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol: CW 66 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1 & 4)**

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin And enter in; Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

**The Sixth Lesson—Zephaniah 3:14-18 The Lord takes away His punishment against His people. (Brent Anderson)**

*After the reading*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol: CW 7 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (vs. 1 & 4)**

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**

**Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,  
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.  
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free.**

**The Seventh Lesson—Isaiah 65:17-25** God will create new heavens and a new earth. (Ken Sarvady)

*After the reading*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Carol: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”** (tune CW 26)

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung.  
It came, a flower bright, Amid the cold of winter  
When half-gone was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind:  
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright She bore to men a Savior  
When half-gone was the night.**

**This Flower, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens every load.**

**The Eighth Lesson—Luke 1:5-25** An angel announces the birth of John, the forerunner of the Messiah. (John Lester)

*After the reading*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Carol: CW 13 “There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”**

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying, A call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway, A highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, The lofty hills brought low;  
Make straight all the crooked places Where the Lord our God may go!**

**O Christians, you bring good tidings; Get up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people The coming of their King.  
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish; Like grass their works decay.  
The pow'r and pomp of nations Shall pass like a dream away;**

**But the Word of our God is eternal; The arm of the Lord is strong.  
He stands in the midst of the nations, And he shall right the wrong.  
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, The lambs shall gently hold,  
To pastures of peace shall lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.**

**The Ninth Lesson—Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel announces that Jesus will be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Kenny Andrews)**

*After the reading*

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Carol: CW 24 “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”**

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary, "Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

**"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree: A blessed virgin mother you shall be.  
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold, "Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleases God," she said.  
"My soul shall praise and magnify His holy name." Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!**

**Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!**

**Offering**

**Offertory**

**Announcements and Advent Greeting**

*Greet one another with the Advent greeting, “The peace of Christ be with you this Advent Season!” or another appropriate expression of peace.*

**Advent Prayer (in unison)**

**Merciful God,**

**You sent Your messengers the prophets**

**to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.**

**Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,**

**that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity,  
and may wait with joy**

**the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;**

**Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Blessing

Pastor: May Christ, who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with His joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**People: Amen.**

## Dismissal

*Pastor:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Carol: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"** (tune LSB 366)

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!**

**For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

<b>Our Father's Business in the Coming Week</b>
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*Cleaning this Week:* Dundore / Daugherty

**Today**—Second Sunday in the Season of Advent—Advent Fest—A Service of Nine Advent Lessons and Carols at 9:30 AM.

No Sunday School or Sunday morning Bible Class (Advent Family Craft at 10:45 AM)

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

**Monday**—Circuit meeting in Waukegan, IL at 9:30 AM

Church Council at 7:00 PM

**Tuesday**—Branch Connection Christmas Party at 6:00 PM

**Thursday**—Green Team at 6:30 PM

**Friday**—No men's Bible Class

**Sunday**—Third Sunday in the Season of Advent Communion Service at 9:30 AM

## **FELLOWSHIP**

A new fellowship sheet has been posted. If you'd like to bring something to eat and drink after the service on Sunday, use the sign-up sheet to reserve a Sunday.

## **POINSETTIAS**

If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia plant to adorn the Lord's chancel during the Christmas season, see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the lower level.

## **SEVEN HABITS OF JESUS**

In his "Seven Marks of the Church" (Luther's Works, vol. 41, pp. 148-168) Luther outlines seven identifying marks of the Church. Those same seven marks can be turned into seven habits which are helpful in living a God-lived life.

### *The 7 Habits of Jesus*

- 1) **REMEMBERING.....our baptismal adoption into God's family**
- 2) **LISTENING.....to God's law and gospel voice in Scripture**
- 3) **PRAYING.....for God's help with all our daily needs**
- 4) **PREPARING.....to hear God's forgiving voice in worship**

*Worship is to be God-centered. Worship is not only about what we do, it is about what God is doing to change our lives! Worship is about what God is saying and doing, to us and for us! The word worship has been defined by the church throughout the ages as "reverence, a profound sense of awe," for God's free gift of grace.*

- 5) **RETURNING.....a percentage of what God has given us**
- 6) **INVITING.....others to baptism and Christ's mission**
- 7) **CARING....for others and creation with God's love**

## **365 DAY BIBLES**

A supply of 365 Day Bible is available on the table around the corner from the entryway. This Bible divides the Scriptures into 365 daily readings consisting of an Old Testament lesson, a New Testament lesson and then either a section from the Psalms or Proverbs. January 1<sup>st</sup> is an ideal time to begin an effort to read through the Bible in one year.

## **LADIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Join the ladies of New Life for a night of fellowship, food, and fun! Mark your calendar for December 7th at 6PM. Please bring something to eat and a \$15 gift for the gift exchange. Attendees will also be working on appreciation care packages for the teachers of our local WELS schools and preschools. Ugly sweaters are welcome, but certainly not required. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet in the lower level and plan to attend!