

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 23 and 24, 2023

5:30pm and 9:00am



“Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending”

As We Gather – “Faithful Watching and Waiting”

How long must we wait?! Wait for Christmas, wait for deliveries, wait for the coming of our Lord. As we wrestle with this question, let’s unpack 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 where Paul points out how to faithfully wait for Christ’s Second Coming.

GATHERING HYMN, LSB 338

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Selected verses from Psalm 96 and stanza one from LSB # 336

P Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

C His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Women: The LORD has made his salvation known

Men: And revealed his righteousness to the nations.

Women: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

Men: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

ALL Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

P Burst into jubilant song with music;

C Make music to the LORD with the harp,

P With the harp and the sound of singing,

Women: With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn;

Men: Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

Women: Let the sea resound, and everything in it,

Men: The world, and all who live in it.

P Let them sing before the LORD,

C For he comes to judge the earth.

ALL He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

- P** Lo! He comes with clouds descending.
- C** **Once for every sinner slain.**
- P** Thousand, thousand saints attending;
- C** **Swell the triumph of his train.**
- ALL Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- P** Christ the Lord returns to reign!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P “You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.” (1 Thessalonians 5:5) And yet, O Lord, we have much to confess:

- C** **Forgive us, O Lord;**
- P** For the sins of the night;
- C** **For clinging to the darkness.**

Men: For secret and hidden sins,
Women: For the sins we have done to please ourselves;
 Men: And for the sins we have done to please others.
Women: Forgive those sins which we know

P And those sins which we do not know.

C **Forgive our sins of apathy;**

P Callous indifference,

C **Shriveling submission,**

Men: Failure to protest injustice,
Women: Forgive our sins of greed,
 Men: Giving only what we can spare,
Women: Hoarding smiles and love and mercy.

ALL: And in it all, forgetting you, O God.

P Believe and receive the Gospel! “God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:9) As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE, LSB 386

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”



1	Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2	Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3	Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4	Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
 Death was reign - ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,
- C** **that by His coming we may be found in Him, fully redeemed and at peace;**
- P** through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING, 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 have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway

shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on 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 gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL, MARK 13:32-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter:

C Glory to You, O Lord.

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN, LSB 337

“The Night Will Soon Be Ending”



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our
 5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now
 child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears
 morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows
 hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -
 night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness
 all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not
 in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -
 round us may in - crease. But now one Star is
 turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - diant
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for
 sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.
 demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.
 new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.
 still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

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NICENE CREED *(see the screen or the inside the back cover of the hymnal)*

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

This is a time that we, as a church family return a portion of the financial blessings God has given us. If you are our guests today, please do not feel obligated to participate. We have many ways to give your tithe or offering. You may place your offering in the plate when it is passed, mail it to the church, text to give by texting 84321 with any dollar amount (be sure to select "South Shore"), give online at sstwbl.org/give, or use the Church Center App from your smartphone (available for both Android and iOS). Disciples of Jesus at SST, please fill out an Ivory SST Registration card and place in the offering plate.

Guests: If you would like more information regarding South Shore Trinity, please fill out a blue Guest Registration card before and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher before leaving.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. That God may bring with his kingdom grace and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That we may be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That we may live in holy confidence because God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That as all sons of the light and sons of the day we may not be like others, who are asleep, but alert and self-controlled; let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That God would bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** That we may shine forth as lights for the world, encouraging all with the certainty of Christ's return, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** [Additional Prayers] Let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** Yea, amen, let all adore Thee.
- C** High on Thine eternal throne.
- P** Savior take the power and glory,
- C** Claim the kingdom as your own.
- All** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- P** Thou shalt reign and Thou alone!

LORD'S PRAYER *(see the screen or the inside the back cover of the hymnal)*

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 359 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

LSB 350 "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

GROWING IN THE WORD

"The angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2:10-11

BENEDICTION

(1 Thessalonians 5:23–24)

P "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C The one who calls us is faithful and he will do it."

SENDING HYMN, LSB 387

"Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav-ior reigns! Let men their songs em-
3 No more let sins and sor-rows grow Nor thorns in-fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na-tions



King; Let ev-'ry heart pre-pare Him
pjoy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless-ings
prove The glo-ries of His righ-teous-



room And heav'n and na-ture sing, And heav'n and na-ture
plains Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat the sound-ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won-ders of His love, And won-ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing.
joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won-ders, won-ders of His love.

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TRINITY TIDINGS

FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 24, 2023

The Flowers at the Altar today are given to the glory of God by Jim and Nancy Haertel in thanksgiving to God for sending Jesus to save us from our sins.

Thank you from the Board of Outreach: We would like to say “thank you” to everyone who attended and enjoyed our Christmas Festival on Sunday December 3rd! We hope the event brought Christmas joy to all those who came. We want to thank everyone who helped plan and participate with the Festival. Thank you to those who donated items, including all the beautiful gifts and gift cards purchased for St Andrew’s Family Shelter in recognition of 80 years of God’s Blessings, decorations, trees, and baked cookies. Everyone’s help was greatly appreciated. Lastly, another “thank you” to Trinity Guild for the generous in-gathering for additional Christmas Shopping dollars for the families at St Andrew’s Shelter. This is a list of what was “gathered” in: 7 care packages, 8 gift cards, 1 crockpot, 1 rice cooker, 2 toddler riding toys, 1 girl’s nail kit, 5 girl’s jewelry sets/kits, 1 action figure toy, 1 LEGO set, 1 set girl’s hair accessories. Thank you!!!

The Book Nook has available for purchase Christmas cards, napkins, Advent candles, calendars, sticker books, etc. We also have many books on our shelves for your reading enjoyment and Bible Helps for your Bible Study enhancement.

Invite Cards -- Have you ever wished you could simply hand out an information card to friends or acquaintances about our church? The Board of Outreach would like to encourage everyone to take several of the new “Invite Cards” and keep them handy for when those opportunities arise. They are on the cabinet by the office and elsewhere around the building.

FREE ITEMS! All of these items are available on/by the cabinet outside the office. We have CDs of “*A Tribute to Jane.*” We have CDs of the 2011 Men’s Choir “*Rejoice.*” Many copies of the hymnal, *Lutheran Worship.*

SERVING THIS WEEKEND

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bob Gehrke

Associate Pastor, Rev. Dan Bodin

Acolytes: 9:00 Ella Svoboda

Anna Altar: Jennifer Carlson and Sally Ackerley

Coffee: Janet Bowman

Counters: Barb Olund and Margaret Ribble

Readers: 9:00 Mary Jane Ross

Organist/Pianist: 5:30 and 9:00 Dr. Jeff Burkart

Live Stream Tech: 9:00 Jayne Kurpius

AV Tech: 5:30 Keith Cook | 9:00 Dorit Hafner

Ushers: 5:30 Bob Dybdal | 9:00 Scott Hafner



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

(Please include the follow people in your prayers)

Those celebrating a birthday: 12/25 – Kay Kubik, 12/26 – John Engh, 12/27 – David Lee, 12/28 – Bob Oebser, Jennifer Anderson, 12/29 – Jacquie Sittler, Linda Kunze, 12/30 – Saige Mann

Those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries: 12/25 – Glenn Borkenhagen, 12/27 – Trent Womeldorff, 12/28 – Kari Anderson, 12/29 – Adeleigh Vette

Those celebrating a wedding anniversary: 12/29 – Jim and Nancy Haertel

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, December 24

4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

Monday, December 25

10:00am Christmas Day Worship with Communion

Tuesday, December 26

Office Closed
No Preschool all week
6:30-8:30pm Women's AA (upstairs)

Wednesday, December 27

No WOW
11:30am Piano Duets

Thursday, December 28

9:30-11:30am [B9A] In Use
6:00pm Vesper Bells [S]

Saturday, December 30

11:00-Noon AI-Anon [upstairs]
5:30pm Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 31

9:00am Worship with Communion
5:30pm New Year's Eve Worship with Communion
(No service on January 1)



PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Yellow "Prayer Request" cards are available in the pew rack.*
- *Please use this Prayer Guide in the coming week to pray for the following people and situations.*
- *Those who are listed in italics are not disciples at SST.*

God's healing: Debbie Dahl, Dick Wicklund, Eileen Spreeman, Herb Frederick, *Karen Nelson*, Danna Anderson, Margaret Ribble, Paulette Genz, *Mark Benson*, Elizabeth Iverson, Marian Meier, Tim Lundgren, *Martha Burkart*, Melody Sweet, *Wayne Leverkus*, Lin Carlson, Carol Gerlach, Elaine Frahm, Betty Frohrib, Grace Bodin, *Brett Swenson*, Bonnie Moyer, *Carol Borgstrom*, Sharen McKelvey, *Noah Boleen*, Celeste Gifford

God's Peace: To all people and especially to nations at war

Those with on-going health issues: *Verna Benson*, Mary Kuruvilla, Jim and Meredith Reinholdt, the children of Rick and Lin Carlson

God's comfort, peace and healing for those with cancer:

Jim Baldwin, Carol Borgstrom, Jack Frahm, Tammy Gimpl, Michelle Krug, Jill Larson, Patti Molkenbur, Bill Niebergall, Pastor Norb Streufert, Lana Albrecht, Rick and Lin Carlson, Joanne Grace, Faye Hansen, SST's Letter Carrier

Protection of our Armed Forces and their families:

Peter Gifford, Megan Lisowy, Aaron Meissen, Dan Mettling, Brodey Perron, Scott Polack, Andrew Reed, Jim Schumann, Dalton Wenzel, Dylan Wenzel, Brandon Boleen, Teddy Boleen, Wyatt Kassa

Missions and missionaries:

Rev. Dr. Fung and Kalia missionary family to SE Asia in Thailand | Pastor Stephen Heimer and Vicar Alex Escarciga at Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas | SST Preschool, reaching our community | MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)

Federal, State and local government and all those in positions of authority

