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Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

+ Serving a diverse community with a unique message +

Sunday, December 18, 2011
8 & 10:30 A.M.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

The celebration of Christmas naturally gives us a wonderful opportunity to ponder who Jesus is and why he came into this world. For two thousand years the Christian Church has celebrated this singular event: the incarnation (“coming in the flesh”) of God himself in the person of Jesus Christ. That God should become a human being like us, “made like his brothers in every way” (Hebrews 2:17), is a Scriptural truth worth pondering! As we consider the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary in our appointed Gospel, we ask ourselves the question: Who do you say Jesus is? What we will discover this morning is astonishing: Not only is Jesus the son of Mary, he is also the one and only Son of God. God himself has come to be our Savior! Glory to God in the highest!



Pastor Souksamay K. Phetsanghane
Pastor Peter M. Prange

 **WELS**
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

WE TEACH ABOUT
JESUS
Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
Morton Grove, Ill

WELCOME

We welcome you this and every day to Jerusalem.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask an usher or other congregational member. We are here to serve you.

If you are a guest, please be sure to sign the **friendship register** found on the inside aisle of each pew. We hope you'll be willing to share your **phone number** or **email address** with us.

All guests are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion at Jerusalem.

Restrooms are located in the hallway just outside the sanctuary. Please note that we have a **wheelchair-accessible, family restroom** with a **changing table**.

We love to have **children** in worship. If they are crying, you are encouraged to make use of the **Jerusalem Room**, which is at the top of the left-hand stairs in the rear of the church. It's a good place for children to regain their composure and then rejoin us for worship.

ABOUT THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The first accounts of Advent (Latin word for "coming") are from Spain and Gaul. In fifth century Gaul, certain days were set aside for fasting in preparation for Christmas as early as St Martin's Day (November 11). In Gaul this season of preparation focused on repentance.

In Rome there is also evidence of a pre-Christmas fast but of shorter duration. At the same time the days before Christmas had a more festive atmosphere in anticipation of the Christmas feast. Pope Gregory the Great (died 604 A.D.) fixed the beginning of the Advent season as the fourth Sunday before Christmas, the Sunday nearest the Feast of St Andrew, Apostle (November 30).

Advent has come to have a threefold emphasis. First, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the advent of our Lord in the flesh at Christmas. We also prepare for his advent in glory at the end of time. Finally, we rejoice in his continual advent, as today he still comes to us in Word and Sacrament. Though Advent is a time of repentance, there is a note of joyful anticipation that runs through the season.


The liturgical color of this season of the Church Year is blue, which symbolizes our hopeful expectation of Jesus' coming again in the clouds of the sky.

The Preparation for Worship

We prepare ourselves to worship the one Savior God by expressing our humble repentance, offering our fervent prayers and singing our thankful hymns of praise.

Anthem (10:30 A.M.)	We Light the Advent Candle
Hymn	Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring (CW 26)
Confession of Sins (p. 15)	We confess to God that we have failed to live up to the perfect standards in his law, and we plead for his mercy.
Announcement of Forgiveness (p. 16)	The pastor announces the forgiveness of sins won for us by the perfect life and innocent sufferings and death of Jesus, our Savior.
Glory be to God (p. 16)	The Church offers her thanksgiving and prayers to a loving Father in heaven, who has shown great mercy to us and promised to hear us and bless us.

Prayer of the Day

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C:  Amen.

The Service of the Word

The Lord Jesus speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:8-16

Now then, tell my servant David, “This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 110 (see page 5)

Second Lesson

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (Matthew 1:23)

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and

wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

The Nicene Creed (p. 18)	We confess the ancient and unchanging faith of the Church.
Anthem (10:30 A.M.)	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Jerusalem Choir)
Hymn of the Day	The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (CW 24)
Sermon	Who do you say Jesus is?
Offering & Prayers	

The Service of the Sacrament

The Lord Jesus gives us his own body and blood under bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Service of the Sacrament (pp. 21-24)	In this service we celebrate the gift of Jesus’ redeeming love, we bear witness to the Christian fellowship we share, and we proclaim his death until he returns.
Distribution Hymn (10:30 A.M.)	As Angels Joyed with One Accord (CW 5)
Prayer and Blessing	
Closing Hymn	Hosanna to the Coming Lord (CW 21)

Psalm 110

Refrain



Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia! Praise and glo-ry to



Christ the King! Al - le - lu - ia!

Psalm Tone



The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”
The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion;
you will rule in the midst of your enemies.

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind:
“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”
The LORD is at your right hand;
he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

Refrain

He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.
He will drink from a brook beside the way;
therefore he will lift up his head.

**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.**

Refrain