



# *First Sunday* OF ADVENT

TEACHING THE UNCHANGING TRUTH OF GOD'S SALVATION TO ALL PEOPLE

**Pastor Alan W. Gumm**

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North Fort Myers, FL 33903

**Meeting Times**

Sunday Worship	8:30 AM
Bible Study	9:45 AM

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 2, 2018**

**W**elcome! If you are visiting with us, please take a moment to sign the "guest register" in the back of the sanctuary so that we might better get to know you.

- **Restrooms** are located in the Fellowship Hall and a baby changing station is located in the Women's bathroom in the Preschool wing.
- **Cry-room.** If you have need of a cry-room, you may use the entryway couch area.

**OPENING HYMN: #1 – "THE ADVENT OF OUR KING"**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation: (*spoken*)      And also with you.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

P: God invites us to come into His presence and worship Him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask Him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me a sinner.**

**P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for all our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.**

**C: (spoken) Amen.**

## **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all Your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**C: (Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

**P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from Your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.**

**C: (Sung) Christ, have mercy.**

**P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**C: (Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

**P: Merciful God, Maker and Preserver of life, uphold us by Your power and keep us in Your tender care.**

**C: (Sung) Amen.**

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; His name is worthy of praise.

## O LORD, OUR LORD

C: *(Sung)* O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your name in all the earth. Almighty God, merciful Father, You crown our life with Your love. You take away our sin; You comfort our spirit; You make us pure and holy in Your sight. You did not spare Your only Son, but gave Him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your name in all the earth. O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, You came to live with us; You made Your Father known; You washed us from our sins in Your own blood. You are the King of glory; You are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your name in all the earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(Sung)* Amen.

## FIRST LESSON:

**JEREMIAH 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

<sup>15</sup> “‘In those days and at that time  
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;  
he will do what is just and right in the land.

<sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved  
and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:

The LORD Our Righteousness.’

(NIV 1984)

## **PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 25 on page 74 in the front of the hymnal**

### **SECOND LESSON:**

### **1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.

<sup>12</sup>May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup>May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

(NIV 1984)

### **VERSE OF THE DAY**

P: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (Revelation 22:20)

**C: (*Sung*) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **GOSPEL LESSON:**

### **Luke 21:25-36**

<sup>25</sup>"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. <sup>26</sup>Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup> He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. <sup>31</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

<sup>32</sup> “I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”  
(NIV 1984)

**C: (Sung)      Praise be to You, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: #18 – “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”**

## **SERMON**

**Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

**Theme: “Lord, Prepare Us For Your Return”**

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

### **THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE OFFERING

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## 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.

## THE SACRAMENT

### NOTICE TO VISITORS ABOUT OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE:

Dear visitors, we request those who are not members of our congregation or a sister church in the WELS or ELS, to refrain from coming to communion today. We want you at the Lord's table with us, but we ask that there be an opportunity for Pastor and you to study God's Word together first.

Close Communion is the historic and biblical practice of the Christian Church. The practice has the purposes of ensuring that, as far as humanly possible, those receiving the Sacrament do so to their benefit and not their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-30), and that the oneness that is expressed in receiving the Sacrament is genuine and not contrived

(1 Corinthians 10:17).|

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **(Sung) And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **(Sung) We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **(Sung) It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.



**C: (Sung)**      **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of Your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt You. I will give You thanks, for You have become my Salvation. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of Your glory.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P:**      The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: (Sung)**      ***Amen.***

## **O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**

**C: (Sung)**      **O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us Your peace. Amen**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **THANK THE LORD**

**C: (Sung)**      **Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell ev'ry-one what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He renews His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **PRAYER**

**P:**      Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: (Sung)**      **Amen**

## THE BLESSING

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † and give you peace.

C: *(Sung)*      Amen. Amen. Amen

**CLOSING HYMN: #9 – “JESUS, YOUR CHURCH WITH LONGING EYES”**

# Announcements

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR THANKSGIVING DAY: 17**

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY: 42**

## PRAYERS FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

**Chronic pain or illness** – Carroll & Evelyn Lothar, David Champlain (brother of Allan Champlain); Carolynn Perkins; Lois Montesano; Tammie Mueller; David Schield; Bill & Elaine Geisser; Rose Marie Lenz; Ray Renner; Allene & Manny Vega (sister & brother-in-law of Allan Champlain); John Saylor; Allan Champlain; Marlys Stolt; Laura Reilly; Nancy Morgan-Keiser; Renoda Dogs; Colleen Udakin & her son Brad.

**THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**Sunday:**        8:30 am – Worship Service with Holy Communion  
                     9:30 pm – Fellowship  
                     9:45 am – Bible Class

**Wednesday:** 9:30 am – Bible Class  
                     10:30 am – Women’s Ministry Meeting  
                     1:00 pm – Midweek Advent Service

**Sunday:**        8:30 am – Worship Service  
                     9:30 am – Fellowship  
                     9:45 am – Bible Class

**FELLOWSHIP AND SERVING**

**Volunteers for this week:** *Ushers:* Eric Roth (C) & “Volunteer” *Counters:* Cynthia Champlain & Marlys Stolt *Snacks:* Alice Hayes *Communion Set-up:* Lois Zastrow *Communion Assistant:* Jim Francis

**Volunteers for next week:** *Ushers:* Jim Francis (C) & “Volunteer” *Counters:* Cynthia Champlain & Marlys Stolt *Snacks:* Lois Zastrow

Sometime after the first of the year, we are going to have an **Arts & Craft Camp**. Some projects can be seen on display in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to add to this display, please feel free to bring in your own crafts. We will be needing Artsy & Crafty people to help with this camp! Please give this some consideration!

**Save the Date:**

Our next monthly **Women's Ministry** meeting will be at 10:30 am immediately following the 9:30 am Bible Study this Wednesday, December 5th! We look forward to seeing you. All women are welcome to attend!

Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm, will be our first Midweek Advent Service. Please plan to attend!

Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm, will be our second Midweek Advent Service. Please plan to attend!

Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, Christ the King Lutheran Church, in Port Charlotte, has invited us to join them on their annual **Christmas Cruise**. The cost is \$18.80 per person and it will leave Fisherman's Wharf, in Punta Gorda, at 7:30 pm! Please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church!

Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm, will be our third and final Midweek Advent Service. Please plan to attend!

Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm, we will have our Christmas Eve Worship Service. Please plan to attend!

Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 am, will be our Christmas Day Worship Service. Please plan to attend!

Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, at 4:00 pm, will be our New Year's' Eve Worship Service with Holy Communion. Please plan to attend!

[Wels Connection for November/December](#) - Tap to view.