

The King Shall Come: Prepare to Meet Him

This Sunday

Scriptures teach that King Jesus is the Son of God in flesh and the only hope for salvation. Jesus himself claimed that he is the only way into the glorious kingdom of heaven. You do not approach meeting someone like that casually or carelessly. You prepare meticulously. What does that mean? What does a life of readiness—ready to meet such a King—look like? In one word: repentance. If we insist on hanging onto our sins, how can we receive the One who came for the very purpose of taking those sins away?

Throughout history, God has raised up called servants—like John the Baptist—to preach a message of repentance. This repentance is central to our preparation for the Lord's coming. Without repentance, the King's coming only terrifies. But all those who believe and repent look forward to the coming of the King and the consummation of his everlasting kingdom.

Gathering Rite

Hosanna to the Coming Lord CW 21

Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

C: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalm 119:89,105

(sung) **Hosanna to the coming Lord!
Hosanna to the incarnate Word!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King
Let earth, let heav'n hosanna sing.**

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

C: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

M: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

C: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice

Psalm 51:1-2,7-8



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel

to help people

Grow

in the Gospel

and

Go

with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

(sung) **O Advent King, our sins forgive;
Come in our lives and hearts to live,
And let our humble souls become
A temple worthy of your name.**

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. 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: Amen.

(sung) **O Savior, with protecting care
Abide in this your house of prayer,
Where we your parting promise claim,
Assembled in your sacred name.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah prophesies about one who could come to prepare people to meet their sovereign LORD. This prophecy is fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist.

40 Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her

that her hard service has been completed,

that her sin has been paid for,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare

the way for the LORD;

make straight in the desert

a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out.”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
“All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 85 CW



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people*
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation.

Refrain

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;*
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**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

Refrain Tune: From *The Psalms for the Day, Series C*. © 1976 Fortress Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-14

St. Peter reminds us that judgment day will come at an unexpected time. So prepare with daily repentance.

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6 cf. NIV)

Stand

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

God raised up John the Baptist to preach a message of repentance and forgiveness, preparing people to meet their Lord and King.

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way” — [Malachi 3:1]

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’” [Isaiah 40:3]

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 worshipped 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.

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry CW 16:1-2,5



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

Sermon

2 Peter 3:8-14

Stand

Create in Me

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be Seated

Offering

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Choir (Sunday 8:00 am)

Prepare the way, make straight the crooked path.
The night is long, the sky is overcast.
But soon in sight there breaks a heav'nly glorious light.
Rejoice, rejoice! We wait, Emmanuel.

The dark sky brightens with each star that glows,
The barren hills will blossom as the rose.
The frozen rivers will again through valleys flow.
Rejoice, rejoice! We wait, Emmanuel.

Christians in this place, hear the joyous news today:
"Christ is coming soon and in our hearts will stay."
Noel, noel, noel, noel sing we clear!
Glad of heart are all on earth for Christ, the Savior, draws near.

In Hope We Wait, Emmanuel

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965

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Stand

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

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

Proper Preface

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

Be Seated

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith and warns us against the dangers of not understanding what communion is, we practice close communion. WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor before communing. If you would like to learn more about communing with us in the future, please contact pastor.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

My Soul in Stillness Waits CWS 703

Refrain
For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits,
tru-ly my hope is in you. you.

To verses | *Last time*

Verses

1	O Lord of	Light,	our on - ly hope of
2	O Spring of	Joy,	rain down up - on our
3	O Root of	Life,	im - plant your seed with -
4	O Key of	Know - ledge,	guide us in our

glo - ry, Your ra-diance shines in all who look to
spir - its. Our thirs - ty hearts are yearn-ing for your
in us, And in your ad - vent draw us all to
pil-grim-age, We ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -



To Refrain

you. Come, light the hearts of all in dark and sha-dow.
Word. Come, make us whole, be com-fort to our hearts.
you, Our hope re-born in dy-ing and in ris-ing.
main. O - pen to us the path-way of your peace.

Text: *O Antiphons*, adapted. © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS (11 10 11 and Refrain) Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

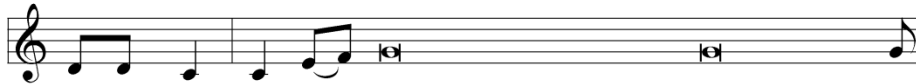
THANKSGIVING

Stand

Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-



pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the



Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra-el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

M: 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 give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Hymn

Comfort, Comfort All My People CW 11 (Koine Setting)



1. "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so says our God.
2. All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
3. John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
4. Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing from their sor - rows' load.
all that well de - serve his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y for his ho - ly reign.



Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
They have suf - fered man - y a day; now their griefs have passed a - way.
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



tell them that their sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."
God will change their ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Interlude after each verse

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