

## Order of Worship for November 28, 2021

### Prelude

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### Opening Hymn – “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” – Hymn #350

### Service of the Word

#### Advent Preparation

P: Lord God, in this Advent season, we hail the coming of Your Son, the promised One, the conquering One.

**C: We know and confess, O Lord, that it is because of our sins that He had to come to our earth, for without His coming, we would be lost forever.**

P: We have been at war with You, O God.

**C: We rebel against Your commands and resent Your rule.**

P: Yet you spoke to us through Your holy prophets, promising to us an end to the warfare and peace for our lives.

**C: In tenderness You cried to us of forgiveness and mercy, of pardon and acceptance.**

P: Not only did You speak to us, O God, but in the fullness of time You sent Your Son who came to comfort us.

**C: He fulfilled the words spoken of Him: “He will not cry or lift up His voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick He will not quench.”**

P: Come to us, Advent Savior, and bring us comfort:

**C: The comfort of peace with you and peace with one another.**

P: Come to us, Advent Savior, and bring us comfort:

**C: The comfort of Your power in our lives that we may follow You and Your will for our lives.**

P: Come to us, Advent Savior, and bring us comfort:

**C: The comfort of our acceptance by You, that we may bring comfort to the comfortless and strife-torn lives You place in our pathways.**

P: And then, O God, come at the end of time, that we may be comforted forever in Your eternal Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### Hymn of Comfort – “Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People” – Hymn #347

#### Entrance Psalm:

P: Behold, your king is coming to you;

**C: righteous and having salvation.**

P: To You, O LORD,

**C: I lift up my soul.**

P: O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;

**C: let not my enemies exult over me.**

P: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;

**C: they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

P: Behold, your king is coming to you;

**C: righteous and having salvation.**

### **Prayer**

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Old Testament Lesson – Jeremiah 33:14–16**

R: Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Lesson – 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13**

R: What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Preparation for Gospel**

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch.

**C: This is the name by which He will be called: The LORD is our Righteousness.**

### **Gospel Lesson – Luke 19:28–40**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: When [Jesus] had said these things, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, He sent two of the disciples, saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” So those who were sent went away and found it just as He had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. And as He rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. As He was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of His disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Children’s Message:**

**Sermon Hymn:** “*O Bride of Christ, Rejoice*” - **Hymn #335**

**Sermon** “*Knowing What’s Coming*” - Jeremiah 33:14–16

Do you want to know what’s coming? When you start a book, do you skip to the ending right away to see who did it, or which characters are going to survive? Or are you one who works to avoid spoilers at all costs? Do you mute certain words on news sites or social media so you don’t know what happens?

One of the biggest challenges of the pandemic was not knowing what was coming. The constant changes, having to adjust plans weekly, daily, hourly. That’s been the hard part of this year, as well. Things opened up and looked to be getting back to normal, and then the delta variant hit. Watching and waiting for the kid’s version of the vaccine to finally be approved. Waiting for businesses to open up, and watching them deal with fewer workers and uncertainty created by that.

Why is it that uncertainty is such a certain part of life? It seems like it’s always difficult, maybe even impossible, for us to know what’s coming, even if whatever it is might be right around the corner. Something unexpected could happen. The future is always just out of our reach. Uncertainty remains.

Of course, we usually don’t know what’s coming. Some people thrive on that kind of unpredictability. Others feel swamped by constant changes.

Sometimes though we know what’s coming. We can watch an Iowa State football game and know that something bad will happen, even if we don’t know what exactly it will be. We can

watch a loved one grow weaker and weaker even if we don't know for sure if the treatment will work. We can spend time at work just waiting for the next shoe to drop.

Jeremiah has known what's coming for a while now for the people of Judah, and what's coming isn't good. There's a reason he's often known as the weeping prophet. It's because of how difficult his ministry was. He'd spent most of his ministry warning people of God's judgment that was to come, of how they'd be taken into exile if they didn't return to following God and his covenant. Jeremiah spent his whole ministry preaching for the people of God to turn back to God, but they didn't listen. He faced ridicule and scorn and persecution from almost everyone he talked to. Instead of listening to Jeremiah's true prophecies from God, they listened to false prophets who told them to trust in their own military might and the alliances they had made.

Jeremiah got thrown in jail for warning the people of Israel that Babylon would conquer them, and when he was proven right, the people rewarded him by throwing him into an open well. Jeremiah grieved not only for the people who would undergo such oppression and exile, but also for himself, because no one would listen to what he could see so clearly. In fact, a whole genre of literature, known as the jeremiad, developed, where the author bitterly laments the state of society and its morals and always contains a prophecy of society's imminent downfall.

God fulfills his promises of what would happen if his people broke the covenant they'd made with him. But God made not only promises of judgment and wrath. God made promises of hope and restoration as well.

Jeremiah isn't all doom and gloom. He also wrote messages of hope, looking ahead to when God would fulfill his promises of restoration. He looked ahead to where God would rescue his people, and bring them back to their land where they would be able to live in peace and safety. Even though the people of Israel had broken their promises to God, God wouldn't break his promises to them.

As Christians, we read "those days" Jeremiah is talking about not just as a promise for the people to be restored from exile. We read "those days" as the days of the coming of Christ, not just His birth but also His coming today in the Word and His coming in final, once and for all judgment. In Jesus, God's promises of a savior were fulfilled. The words of forgiveness and comfort we hear today fulfill God's promises as well. And as we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the first coming of Jesus, we keep an eye on being prepared for His Second Coming, as well.

We need a God who is with us no matter what the future may hold. In Jesus, that's what we have. He comes to us in Holy Communion to give us both food and forgiveness. He comes to us through His Word to encourage and empower us.

In this first week of Advent, there is so much energy and excitement pointed to the immediate future. We find our minds full of holiday travel plans or sharing the travels we just made. Our minds are full of shopping lists, menus and recipes, address lists for cards, and visions of the

perfect décor for our homes. In these days full of busyness and excitement, it can be hard to slow down and look around.

As Jesus talks with his disciples in the upper room on Maundy Thursday, the night he was betrayed, they're all under pressure. Jesus knows what's coming. He tells them they will have trouble in the world, tribulation in the world. When Jesus finishes this last discourse to his disciples, they'll go to the Garden of Gethsemane. His disciples will collapse under the pressure and be unable to keep watch with him. They'll abandon Jesus when he's arrested. Jesus will be beaten and bloodied, mocked mercilessly. He'll be tried and crucified. On the cross, he'll be crushed under the pressure of all the sin the world has ever known and will ever know.

Jesus didn't just tell his disciples that the world was full of trials and tribulations and troubles, pressure and problems. No, Jesus told them that they had peace. They had peace because Jesus had overcome the world.

Jesus knew that trouble was coming, but it was trouble he was ready for. It was trouble he was born to face. It was trouble he was born to bear and to overcome.

Jesus gives the gift—the gift of righteousness. It is ours because the Messiah laid aside his glory and became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). Now we are free from striving to be self-righteousness. Instead, we can rest in the Messiah's gift of declared righteousness.

There are times when we are afraid, when we don't know what the future will hold. As we look ahead to the time of transition as we wait to see what the new school year will bring, we don't know all of the answers. We don't know what the future holds. But we do know who holds the future. We know who holds us. What a wonderful promise.

**Creed** – Second Article of the Creed – pg. 322-323

### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Let us pray to the Lord...

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Lord's Prayer:**

### **Closing Prayer:**

P: Come, then, O Jesus, from our sins release us. Keep our hearts believing, that we, grace receiving, ever may confess until in heaven we bless You.

**C: Amen.**

### **Blessing (Pastor)**

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** – *“Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty”* – **Hymn #441**

**Postlude**