

Clippings

*Newsletter of Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
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Wait
Prepare
Anticipate



The word “Advent” means “coming.” Jesus is the Coming One, the One who comes from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). He is the light of the world, the true light which enlightens everyone, coming into the world (John 1:9). This light results in judgment, for some will gravitate toward the light, and some will flee it. After He gave a blind man his sight, Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind” (John 9:39).

This coming was a long-expected one in the Jewish nation of that day; when He did a miraculous sign of feeding five thousand from five loaves and two fish, the people said about Him, “Truly this is the Prophet who is supposed to be coming into the world!” (John 6:14). Jesus’ grieving friend Martha, newly bereft of her brother Lazarus, confessed her faith to Jesus: “I believe You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world” (John 11:27). Her grief was ended later that day when Jesus raised Lazarus from death.

The hungry fed. The blind given light. The grieving given back their dead. The Gospels depict Jesus as the One for whom the world was waiting, who has come from the Father, on His mission of mercy. When emissaries from John Baptizer’s prison came to verify that the Jesus he was hearing about, was in fact the Coming One,

...he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” (Luke 7:22f ESV).

He came, and He met the greatest need of the needy: the need for reconciliation with the Father against whom we were rebelling. Out of this profound separation from our Creator come all those other forms of poverty: hunger, grief, blindness, despair. Jesus met those needs on the cross, and when He was raised to life again on the third day, we had incontrovertible proof that the Father is now reconciled to us.

Jesus is coming again, on the Last Day, to finish His work. To end forever death, pain, sin, want. Until He does, we gather to hear His Word, to eat and to drink His promises, to be near Him who said “I am with you until the end of the age.” Fed by Him, we still hunger and thirst; comforted by His promises, we still grieve; and though His Word is a light unto our path, there are still many things we can’t make out on the fringes of

our sight. We are still waiting, and He is still coming. The church season of Advent is a time that gives shape to the waiting character of our lives, the longing and the hunger and the hope. But thanks be to God that through the Good News, the Gospel, we wait not with dread, but with faith, with sure-footed confidence that He will keep His promises!

Please make time in your busy life to join us on Wednesdays as we celebrate His comings: the first, to suffer; the second, to rule; and His coming in His Word today as He supports our faithful waiting!

Prepare Ye
the Way
of the Lord

Pastor Fremer