

# Advent

November 30th, 2022

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wednesday Advent

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged  
in Spirit-filled Service.*



1089 Lake Oconee Parkway

Eatonton, GA 31024

Church Office: 706-485-4600

Sonya Plunkett Church Secretary

[www.lakeoconeelutheran.org](http://www.lakeoconeelutheran.org)

Office email: [officelolc@gmail.com](mailto:officelolc@gmail.com)

Pastor Steven Hayden

Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081

Pastor's email: [revshayden@gmail.com](mailto:revshayden@gmail.com)

Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are  
available from the ushers

# Cain

**As We Gather** Who is the son of Adam? When Adam and Eve held their firstborn son, Cain, in their arms for the first time, perhaps they wondered, “Who is this son?” After all, following their sin, the Lord God promised salvation from Eve’s offspring (Genesis 3:15). Could this baby boy be that Savior from sin and death? Not yet. Instead, Cain becomes the first murderer and spills the blood of his brother, Abel. Thankfully, a greater Son of Adam would fulfill the promise of a Savior. This Son would be held in the arms of another couple—Mary and Joseph. This Son would allow His very own blood to be shed for the salvation of Adam, Eve, and all their descendants.

## The Hymn “What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”

Hymn 342



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

© 1998 Stephen P. Starke. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100010599.

## The Invocation

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Pastor:** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**People:** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:** All those who await His appearance pray:

**People:** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:** The whole creation pleads:

**People:** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:** Awaiting the Son of Man and the Son of God, we implore:

**People:** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

## Confession and Absolution

**P:** Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

**C Loving Father, who sent Jesus as the promised child, our Savior, we confess that our waiting has distracted our Advent and turned us to follow our own way. Forgive us for shaping the celebration to fit our desires. Focus our eyes and hearts on the coming Christ. Inspire us with Christ's advent so that we shout from the housetops the Good News that in the coming Savior God is indeed with us. Make us into your joy-filled messengers, sharing your powerful message of salvation for all.**

P Jesus has promised that the sins we forgive on earth will also be forgiven in heaven. Trusting that precious promise, as a called and ordained minister of the Gospel, I confidently declare to you that, in Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven and you are privileged to share that same forgiveness with all the others in your life. We are filled with Jesus' light of life so that we can shine among the people of this world like stars in the sky.

### **First Reading**

### **Genesis 4:1-16**

<sup>1</sup>Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." <sup>2</sup>And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. <sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup>and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup>The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup>If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

<sup>8</sup>Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" <sup>10</sup>And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. <sup>11</sup>And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup>When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." <sup>13</sup>Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. <sup>14</sup>Behold, You have driven me today away from the ground, and from Your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. <sup>16</sup>Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

## **Second Reading**

## **Romans 5:12-17**

12Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— 13for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

15But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 17If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

## **Gospel Reading**

## **Matthew 5:17-26**

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>20</sup>“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”

## The Hymn

## "My Soul Rejoices"

Hymn 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

## The Message

### The Prayers

Pastor: During this season of Advent, we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." True Son of Adam,

**People: come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: True Son of Abraham,

**People: come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: True Son of David,

**People:**     **come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:**    True Son of God,

**People:**     **come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:**    True Son of Man,

**People:**     **come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:**    That we might receive adoption as sons and daughters,

**People:**     **come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

### The 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 Blessing

**Pastor;** The Lord Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**People: Amen.**

### The Closing Hymn    **"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**    Hymn 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.