

# Advent

December 13, 2023

## 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.*



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

## The Hymn “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

Hymn 348



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.  
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text and tune: Public domain

### The Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A voice cries out, “In the wilderness clear a way for the Lord;

**C make a way in the desert, a road for our God.**

P Every valley must be lifted up, and every mountain and hill leveled.

**C The rough places will become a level plain, the rugged land a wide valley.**

P The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it at the same time.

**C For the Lord has decreed it.”**

P “Go up on a high mountain, O herald Zion!

**C Shout out loudly, O herald Jerusalem! Shout, don’t be afraid!**

P Say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God!’”

**C “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.**

P And they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us).”

**C “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

### Confession and Absolution

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

**C Faithful Father, who sent Jesus as the fulfillment of the promised Savior, we confess that our distracted doing has shrouded our Advent and turned us to follow our own way. Forgive us for shaping the celebration to fit our desires. Seize us by your Spirit. 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 Word 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.

### **The Prayer of the Day**

P Promised Savior, living Lord, we celebrate the new life you bring through your life, death and resurrection. We give thanks for your coming, for your promised salvation. As root of Jesse, the coming promised new life grown from the patriarch and prophets, we open our hearts to receive you this Advent time and join the saints through the ages in witnessing to the gift of faith and life that you bring to us and to all. We affirm your rule along with the Father and the Spirit. Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading**

### **Psalm 85**

<sup>1</sup> Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

<sup>3</sup> You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup> Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

<sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup> Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

## Gospel Reading

**John 1:14-18**

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known..

## The Hymn

### “Hark the Glad Sound”

**Hymn 349**



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text and tune: Public domain

## The Message

## The Offering

## The Prayers

Pastor: Advent Lord, we long for your return.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pastor: Lord and Savior, forgive us when we are too busy to worship you.  
Forgive us when we grow impatient and unkind toward others and put our

preparations ahead of the people in our lives. Help us to look forward to our celebrations with joy and peace. Advent Lord, we long for your return.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pastor: Lord and Savior, lead us to help those in need during this holiday season, to share with others the blessings you have given us. Comfort those who suffer in illness, grief or loneliness, especially those we name in our hearts ... Advent Lord, we long for your return.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pastor: Lord and Savior, because of your death and resurrection, we can now serve you without fear, in holiness and righteousness before you all the days of our lives. Fill us with joy as we prepare to celebrate your birth, and let our joy overflow into the lives of others, so that they too will worship you as their Savior. Advent Lord, we long for your return.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pastor: 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.