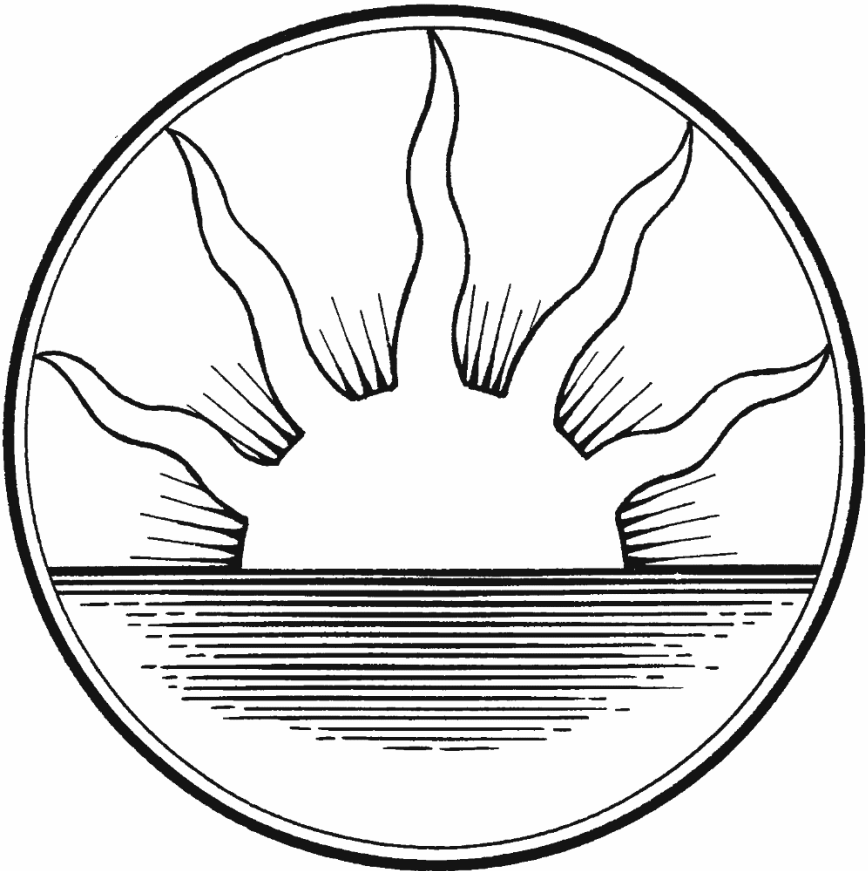


1st Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020



Riverview 
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

136 W. Seymour Street, Appleton, WI 54915



Growing in Faith and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all People

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today, whether in person or online. What a blessing to gather as God's people around his Word and Sacraments. In these gifts, God promises that his Holy Spirit is at work to bless us.

- ✘ **A virtual "Worship Card"** is available at www.RiverviewLutheran.org/onlineworship. We ask all who have joined us today, whether online or in person, to complete a card to leave a record of your worshipping with us today.
- ✘ **Precautions: Thank you for taking these steps out of love for those worshipping with you today.**
 - ✘ Please maintain social distancing (minimum of 6 feet) from those not in your household. A six-foot section at the center of each pew is marked with tape.
 - ✘ Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
 - ✘ Be sure to cover any and all coughs and sneezes.
 - ✘ Following worship, please keep visiting indoors to a minimum. Visiting can be done more safely outside.
 - ✘ Take your printed service folder home, since it will not be reused for other services.
- ✘ **The Offering** is an opportunity for us to thank the Lord for all his blessings to us by giving a portion of our income in support of his gospel ministry. If you are a guest today, you may participate in the offering. But please don't feel obligated. Those interested in giving an offering may do so in several ways:
 - ✘ Mail a check to Riverview (136 W Seymour St, Appleton, WI 54915)
 - ✘ Use the QR Code on the right or click on the giving link on our website to give a gift electronically (one-time or recurring).
 - ✘ Set up Bill Pay with your bank to have your gift mailed to Riverview.
 - ✘ In-person worshippers may leave their offering in one of the plates at the door.
- ✘ **Prayer before Worship:** Come, Lord Jesus, come. Swing wide the gates of our hearts to receive you as you come to us in Word and Sacrament today. And make us always ready to receive you when you come again. Amen.



THE SYMBOLS AND COLORS FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four-week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the “coming” of the Christ. We celebrate that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, that he comes to us now in Word and Sacraments, and that he will come again at the end of time.

Seasonal Color:

Blue, the color of the sky and of hope, reminding us to lift our eyes to the skies, where we will see Jesus return on the Last Day.

Seasonal Symbols for Advent:

- **The four candles on the Advent Wreath** are lit on the four Sundays of Advent, so that on the fourth Sunday all of the candles are burning brightly, symbolizing the growing light of Christ’s coming, breaking through the darkness of sin and death. The white “Christ Candle” in the center is first lit on Christmas Eve.
- The **Crown** reminds us that Jesus is King of Kings, who has conquered our enemies and promises to return to judge the world and gather the elect into his heavenly kingdom. It also reminds us of the crown of life that the faithful will receive when Christ returns.
- The **Cross** reminds us that the only way to the crown of life was for Christ to give his life on a cross as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- The **Circle** represents eternity and reminds us that Christ is coming soon to bring us into his eternal kingdom. It also reminds us of the earth, to which Christ descended as “God with us” to save us.
- The **Tau-Rho** (Ϡ) is a variation of the Chi-Rho (Ϟ), an ancient Christian symbol that incorporates the first two letters of the word Christ in Greek (ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ). The Tau-Rho (sometimes called a staurogram, after *stauros*, the Greek word for “cross”) was used in some ancient manuscripts for the word “cross” and may visually have represented Christ hanging on the cross.





Order of Service for the 1st Sunday in Advent
DIVINE SERVICE I

3:30 pm (livestream)

✝ GATHERING ✝

Please stand.

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

OPENING RESPONSES

Psalm 24:1-6¹

M The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

C **for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.**

M Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

C **The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.**

M They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.

C **Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.**

¹ Psalm 24 is the Psalm of the Day appointed for the 1st Sunday in Advent. It celebrates the blessing of coming into God's presence and receiving Jesus, the King of Glory, into our hearts by faith.

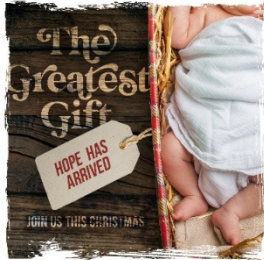
Riverview Holiday Worship Schedule 2020

Midweek Advent Worship

Theme: Children of the Promise
Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16
3:30 pm (livestream)



6:30 pm



Christmas Eve Worship

Theme: The Greatest Gift
Thursday, December 24
3:30 pm (livestream)
5:00 pm, 6:30 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Friday, December 25
9:30 am (livestream)

First Sunday after Christmas

Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, December 27
8:00 am (livestream)
9:15 am (no 10:30 am service)

New Year's Eve Worship

Worship with Holy Communion
Thursday, December 31

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M** As we ascend the mountain of the Lord and stand in this holy place, let us approach our God with a true heart, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- All** **Holy and merciful Father,**
I confess that I am by nature sinful
and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.
For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.
But I am truly sorry for my sins,
and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray:
Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION²

- M** God our Savior has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son as the Lord mighty in battle to conquer sin, death, and the devil. As a called servant of Christ, I declare that your hands are clean, your heart is pure, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son \dagger and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Psalm 24:7-10

- M** Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
- C** **that the King of glory may come in.**
- M** Who is this King of glory?
- C** **The LORD strong and mighty,**
the LORD mighty in battle.
- M** Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
- C** **that the King of glory may come in.**
- M** Who is he, this King of glory?

² Absolution is the assurance that God has absolved (declared “not guilty”) each one of us because of Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins. (Psalm 32:5; 1 John 1:9, 2:2).

C The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.

✝ THE WORD ✝

SALUTATION

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY³

M Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹ Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!

² As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!

³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

³The Prayers of the Day for Advent are some of the oldest in Christianity, dating back to the early Christian church fathers. They are simple and short and perfectly capture the nature of the preparatory season of Advent. These ancient prayers were said by many of the faithful even during the week when children would take turns reciting them as they lit the candle(s) on the Advent Wreath. They are excellent for daily use in the home during Advent.

SERVING TODAY

Preacher.....Pastor Timothy Wagner
Presiding Minister.....Pastor Dennis Belter
Organist.....Mr. Peter Wolgramm

Acknowledgments

Divine Service I: Texts revised from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. All rights reserved. Used by permission. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
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Riverview Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

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Riverview Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). The WELS (www.wels.net) is a group of confessional Lutheran Christians walking together as individuals and congregations sharing a common bond of faith in Jesus articulated in the Lutheran Confessions.

BLESSING

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes

Christian Worship 9



1 Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex -
2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall And win - try
3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new, Our sins for -
4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land; Let Sa - tan
5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer To wait for



pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised
clouds o'er - cast the sky, Your words with plea - sure
give, our foes sup - press, Our root - ed en - mi -
from his throne be hurled. Let na - tions bow to
your ap - point - ed hour, And fit us by your



light a - rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?
we re - call And know that our re - demp - tion's nigh.
ty sub - due, And crown your gos - pel with suc - cess.
your com - mand; Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.
grace to share The tri - umphs of your con - qu'ring pow'r.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.

How then can we be saved?

⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

⁷ No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to our sins.

⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.

VERSE OF THE DAY⁴

Revelation 22:20

M Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

⁴ The Verse of the Day reinforces the theme of the day. It looks forward to and welcomes the reading of the Gospel.

Please stand.⁵

GOSPEL

Mark 13:32-37

M The Gospel according to Mark, chapter 13.

C **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated.

⁵ The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King. As you boldly say, “Glory be to you, O Lord!” and “Praise be to you, O Christ!,” it is as if you are welcoming your victorious King back from battle and shouting, “Long live the King!”

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

M O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C **have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Amen.**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

All confirmed members of Riverview or another WELS or ELS congregation are invited to approach the altar at the direction of the ushers to receive holy communion.

Instructions for Receiving the Sacrament

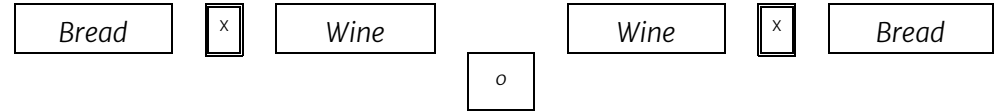
The left (pulpit) side of the congregation is ushered up first, then the right (font) side. Please maintain at least six feet between households as you approach the altar.

Holy Communion will be served by continuous distribution. First approach the table with the host (bread) and take a paper with the host in it (gluten-free wafers are also available and are marked as such). After pausing to receive the body of Christ, discard the paper in the receptacle next to the table.

Then approach the table with the individual cups and take a cup from the tray (white grape juice is also available). Please be careful not to touch cups other than the one you take. After pausing to receive the blood of Christ, discard the cup in the wooden receptacle in the center aisle, and return to your seat.

Communicants may choose to say “Amen” after receiving each of the elements.

The blessing follows the distribution.



THANKSGIVING

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

C **And his mercy endures forever.**

CLOSING PRAYER

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.**

✚ THE SACRAMENT ✚

PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

M Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C It is good and right so to do.

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 Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Savior of the Nations, Come*⁶

Christian Worship 2



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
Spir - it of our God Was the Word of
vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the
cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing
God the Son, our King, Praise to God the



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!
Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

⁶ “Savior of the Nations Come” is called the Advent hymn *par excellence*. It was originally written in Latin by St. Ambrose (c.339–397), the bishop of Milan (northern Italy). Martin Luther later translated this hymn from Latin into German. Our English version is a translation of Luther’s German. This beautiful hymn was born out of theological controversy. It extols the wonderful truth about the person and work of Jesus, truths that were under attack in the 4th century by men like Arius, who denied that Jesus was the eternal Son of God.

SERMON

God's Advent Gifts for Waiting Christians

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please stand.

NICENE CREED⁷

All 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.

⁷ The Nicene Creed is one of three “ecumenical creeds” professed by all Christian denominations. It was crafted to express the clear truths of Scripture in opposition to the Arian heresy, which denied that the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit are God. The Nicene Creed originated at the First Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.) and was finalized at the First Council of Constantinople (381 A.D.).

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 worshiped 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.

Please be seated.

✚ PRAYERS ✚

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Please stand.