



Stirring Up Advent
Recipes for Relationships
Service One: Covenant
December 1, 2021



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Stirring Up Advent Recipes For Relationships

Service One: Covenant

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

An Advent Opening ...

Tune # 343

(One Advent candle may be lit as the hymn tune is introduced.)

An Antiphon Of Expectation

P Lord, we come in this first week of Advent to await your coming--a coming promised thousands of years ago:

C **A promise in the Garden: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heal." (Gen. 3:15)**

P We come in expectation, assured that you, the great Promise-Keeper, will keep your promise:

C **Just as St. Paul said, "... When the time had fully come, you sent your Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive the full rights of children." (Gal. 4:4-5)**

P We come in joy, because your promises were kept, all of them, including the promise made outside of the Garden:

C **"To destroy the devil's work." (1 Jn. 3:8)**

P We come with joy, because Christmas announces the birth of the Savior, the promised Messiah:

C **A Savior who would live, die and rise so that, as you promised, O Lord, "whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (Jn. 3:16)**

We come in expectation a covenant foretold.

The promise of a Savior, his kingdom now unfold.

Prepare our hearts to meet him; all nations now do greet him:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

An Antiphon Of Confession

P Mark Twain once said, "To promise not to do a thing is the surest way in the world to make a body want to go and do that very thing." (*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, 1876*)

C Lord, as we come, we come to prepare.

P We prepare to more faithfully keep our promises to you and to one another.

C However, as we prepare and examine our hearts and minds, we recognize how we have failed to keep our promises.

P As St. Paul said, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do." (*Rom. 7:15*)

C The promises we make are sincere,

P but they are short-lived.

C We don't make promises with intentions to break them,

P but so many circumstances get in the way, and what we wanted to do, we find ourselves not doing.

C Before we sinned, we hated those who did not keep their promises,

P but now we confess, we find ourselves doing the very things we hated in others.

C Your Word accuses us, showing us our sin:

P "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing." (*Rom. 7:19*)

C We have pledged so many things to you as others, such as to love you above all things and our neighbor as ourselves,

P And yet we have not done so.

C We have been much too preoccupied with our own self-interest than with you and your will, with our neighbors' concerns and their needs.

P "Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living me that does it." (*Rom. 7:20*)

C Lord God, we promised that we would not let the unclean thoughts invade our minds,

P yet we have let them sneak back in and have entertained them as honored guests.

C We did not plan for our ears to hear the things they heard, our tongues to speak the words they spoke, our hands to participate in the evil they did.

P But too often throughout this week they did the very things we promised we would not participate in.

C **These and so many other promises we have failed to keep, some of which we name before you silently Forgive us, Lord God. "How wretched we are! Who will rescue us from this body of death?" (Rom. 7:24)**

**A promise in the Garden you made so long ago;
You are the Promise Keeper, your love for us did show.
We come with joy this Advent, assured our Savior is sent:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!**

An Antiphon Of Absolution

P "Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord." There is forgiveness--forgiveness because God keeps his covenant of promise:

C **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn. 1:9)**

P As your called and ordained pastor, it is my privilege, on this the beginning of a new church year, to assure you that all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **His coming has brought us forgiveness. Amen.**

**You came to bring forgiveness; you came to live and die.
You rose as you did promise, eternal life supply.
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!**

The Word

Old Testament Lesson ...

Jeremiah 33:14-16

(A promise was made, hundreds of years before its fulfillment, of a Savior.)

The days are surely coming, says 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 live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Epistle Lesson ...

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*(It is St. Paul's prayer that we grow more in love with God and with others.
May it especially happen this season.)*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever 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, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Confession Of Faith ...

Tune #357

**When light split darkness at your Word,
When atoms spun and planets whirled,
When wing beat air and fin split sea,
When you formed all humanity,
Your pow'r was shown--let all shout praise!
To God our Father anthems raise!**

**When to this earth you sent your Son,
When on the cross the deed was done,
When at the tomb new life was won,
When in the clouds his reign's begun,
Your love was shown--let all shout praise!
To God our Savior anthems raise!**

**When Spirit's fire burns in our hearts,
When unity our God imparts,
When sweet forgiveness covers sins,
When everlasting life begins,
Your love is shown--let all shout praise!
To God the Spirit anthems raise!**

Gospel Lesson ...

Luke 19:28-40

(Jesus comes this season just as he came to Jerusalem to be King of kings and Lord of lords.)

After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power 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 heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Theme Hymn: Stir Up ...

Tune #344

**"Stir up your might, O God," we pray,
Then tremble at the words we say,
Full knowing that our fragile world
Could not withstand your might unfurled.**

**Stir up your might, O God, and ease
Our troubled minds. For you are pleased
To loose your mighty pow'r to save
From sting of death and grasp of grave.**

**Stir up, O God, your pow'r to free
Your children from sin's tyranny.
Protect us, Lord, by your great might,
And sin's grave dangers put to flight.**

**Stir up, O Christ, your saving might
That reaches into heaven's height,
Where with the Father, strong you reign
And Holy Spirit, e'er the same.**

Sermon ...

“Recipes For Relationships: Covenant”

The Offering

Offertory Hymn ...

Tune #684

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.**

**Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.**

The Prayers/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.**

Benediction

Closing Hymn...

Tune #364

**Your Way in a manger has come to the earth.
Your will for your people is known in this birth.
A bond is established, a covenant born,
With promises pregnant, fulfilled Christmas morn.**

**Lord, filled with your love, your acceptance, your peace,
Pray, guide us and lead us to love's sweet increase:
To live lives of promise, empowerment, grace;
With intimate mercy our loved ones embrace.**

WEEK TWO December 8, 2021

God's **Grace** epitomizes His selfless, self-giving love--a grace that saves the beloved! Needless to say, no such covenant could have happened without pure unadulterated **grace** and mercy on God's part. (*Jn. 3:16*) Christ's coming brought new life and new hope for humankind. He made relationship with God and one another possible.

NEXT WEEK AT TRINITY LUTHERAN

Dec 1, 2021

Thursday	7:00 pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Friday	11:00 am	DOA Bible Study (In person/Zoom)
Sunday	3:00 pm	Christmas Caroling (Meet @ church)

Please contact Pastor or Bobbi Smith for Zoom Meeting information

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Annual Voter's Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 12, 2021 immediately following the first service. Among other things, the 2022 church budget will be finalized and our leadership roster filled. All are encouraged to attend this important meeting.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 @ 3:00pm

We will meet at church @ 3pm and caravan to various members of Trinity who are homebound or in nursing facilities. We will end up at Pastor and Bobbi's for supper and dessert! Sign up now and bring a friend!