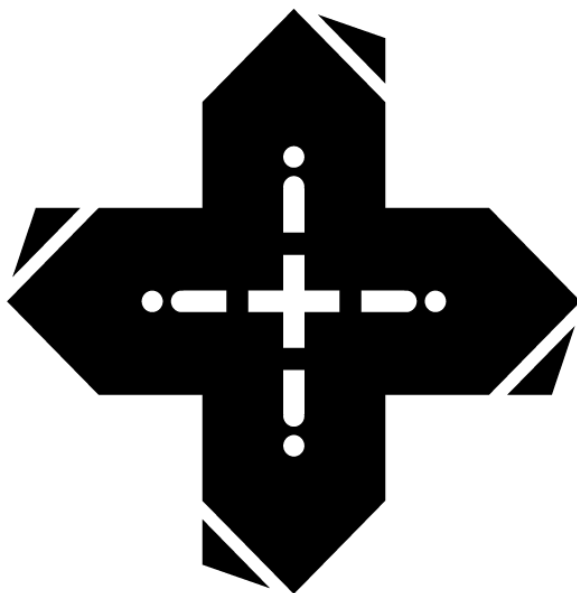


CONNECTING CHRIST. CREATING COMMUNITY



HUNTERSVILLE
Lutheran Church

11.29.20 | Season of Advent



Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for
A Changing Community*

Worshipping at the Brick Row

Bible Class @ 8:45am | Worship @ 9:30am

Huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057 | pastor@huntersvillelc.com

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength though God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located through the doors at the rear of the building, to the right. Follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

Service Participants

Rev. Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*
Andrea Van Sice, *keyboardist*

Service Notes | *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 Christ as the savior of the world.

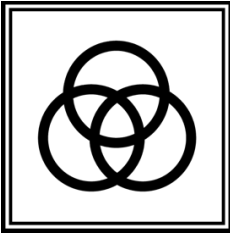
Today’s Theme | *The Forerunner Prepares* |

God has always used messengers to prepare his people for what is coming. In the beginning of Mark’s gospel, we hear an account of the great forerunner of Christ—John the Baptizer. John’s job was to prepare the hearts of God’s people for what the Lamb of God was going to do. But John didn’t do this with a message of his own. He did it with a message from God. For centuries, God has continued to send forerunners in the footsteps of John—people who continue to prepare the hearts of God’s people for Jesus’ coming.



About Huntersville Lutheran

Huntersville Lutheran is supported by, and are members of, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada. Our mission is to show you to the authentic Jesus, build you up in his Word, and connect you to your community and neighbors in ways you have never been able to before. For find out more about us, visit our website: huntersvillelc.com.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Normally, no hymn of praise is sung during Advent and Lent. This practice accentuates the solemn and penitential nature of these seasons. This Advent, the Gloria is replaced by the gathering rite for the season. At the heart of this gathering rite is thought of waiting. The season of Advent is marked by waiting in anticipation for the coming of God's Son in flesh and blood to be our Savior. It is in him we hope. It is for him we wait. It is to him we pray, "Come quickly, Lord."

Gathering Song

I Will Wait For You



1 Lord, from the depths I call to you; Lord, hear me
2 Lord, in your pres- ence who can stand, if you our



from on high and give at - ten - tion
sins re - cord? But yet for - give - ness



to my voice when I for mer - cy cry.
is with you, that we may fear you, Lord.

Invocation

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

Psalm 130:1

C Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

Psalm 130:2

Confession

- L** The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.
- C** **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 trust in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Sung Response

- L** Out of the depths I cry to you, in darkest places I will call;
Incline your ear to me anew, and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were you to count my sinful ways, how could I stand before your throne?
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze: I stand redeemed by grace alone.

C Refrain:



I will wait for you, I will wait for you; on your
word, I will re - ly. I will wait for you, sure - ly
wait for you, till my soul is sat - is - fied.

Absolution

L If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

Psalm 130:3

C But with you there is forgiveness.

Psalm 130:4

L Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love;

C And with him is full redemption.

Psalm 130:7

L God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

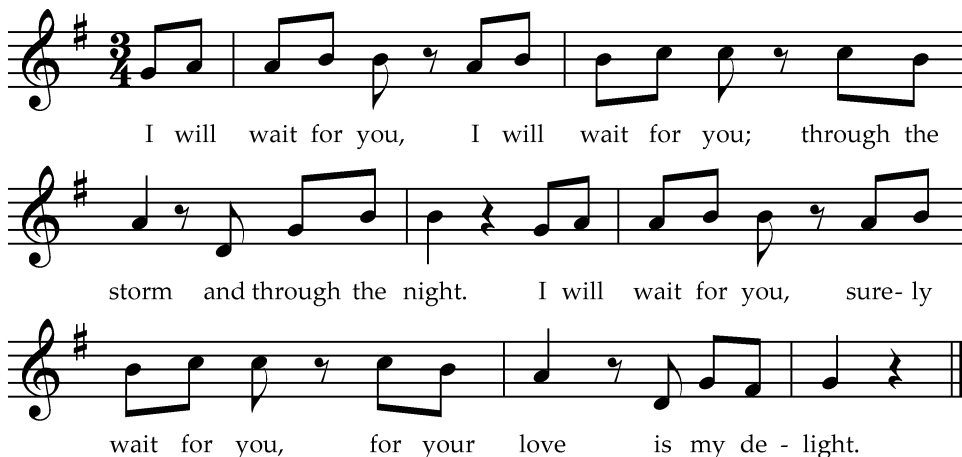
C Amen.

Sung Response

L So put your hope in God alone; take courage in his power to save—
Completely and forever won by Christ emerging from the grave.

Now he has come to make a way, and God himself has paid the price,
That all who trust in him today, find healing in his sacrifice.

C Refrain:



I will wait for you, I will wait for you; through the
storm and through the night. I will wait for you, sure-ly
wait for you, for your love is my de - light.



THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

L Let us pray:

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Be Seated

Children's Message

First Reading | *Isaiah 40:1-11* |

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out.”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass,

and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,

because the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,

but the word of our God endures forever.”

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,

go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,

lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid;

say to the towns of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,

and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,

and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart;

he gently leads those that have young.

“

Psalm 85

- L** You showed favor to your Land, O LORD;
- C** **You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**
- L** You forgave the iniquity of your people
- C** **And covered all their sins.**
- L** Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,
- C** **And grant us your salvation.**
- L** I will listen to what God the LORD will say;
- C** **He promises peace to his people, his saints.**
- L** Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
- C** **That his glory may dwell in our land.**
- L** Love and faithfulness meet together;
- C** **Righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

Second Reading | *2 Peter 3:8-14* |

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Lighting Rite

Please Stand.

- We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.
- We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.**
- We hear his call to watch.
- We light one Advent candle as a sign of our faithful watching and eager waiting.**
- Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come.

The congregation sings:

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**



The Gospel

L The Gospel, according to Mark, chapter one.

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way” –

³“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day | *Comfort, Comfort All My People* |

- Speak to all Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, that their warfare now is over.”
1. Comfort, comfort all my people; speak of peace,” so says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, groaning from their sorrow’ load.
Speak to all Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, that their warfare now is over.”

Congregation Sings:

2. **All their sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
all that well deserve his anger he no more will see or heed.
They have suffered many a day; now their griefs have passed away.
God will change their aching sadness into ever-springing gladness.**
3. **John the baptist voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Calling people to repentance for the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.**
4. **Straighten out the crooked highway; make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the lord now o’er earth is spread abroad,
All all flesh shall see the token that this word is never broken!**

Sermon | *Preparation Starts in the Heart* |

Mark 1:1-8

Personal Sermon Notes

Confession of Faith | *Apostles' Creed* |

☑ I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

Offering | The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, text any dollar amount to **84321**. Easy to follow instructions will be sent to your phone to complete your digital offering. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.

Take Action Cards | In your service folder, you will find *Take Action* Cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your *Take Action* card in the offering plate as it comes around.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

BLESSING

Lord's Blessing

L 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.

Numbers 6:24

C Amen.

Song of Departure | *Prepare the Royal Highway* |

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1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and
own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -
greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry
comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall
All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness



sa - cred sto - ry:
doubt as - sail you! Ho - san - na to the
now a - dore him!
so a - bound - ing:



Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You | You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning we pray that your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

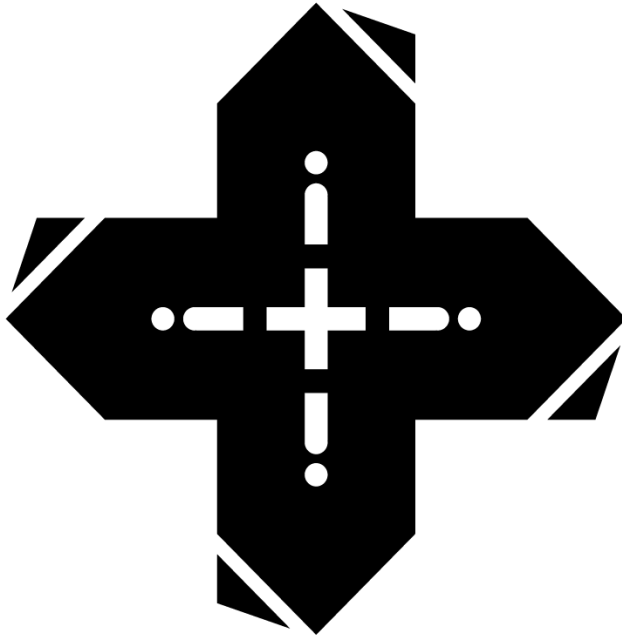
Want to Learn More? | Aside from worship, one of the best ways to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor (pastor@huntersvillelc.com).

Weekly Bible Study | Next week, we will continue our bible study on 1 Thessalonians called, "Chosen Rejects: Life and Hope in the Face of Persecution." Over the course of a few weeks, we will walk through and find comfort for life in this turbulent world from Paul's beautiful words to the Thessalonians. There will also be a special bible study for children!

Advent Dinner and Devotion | On Wednesdays, December 9th and 16th, starting at 6:30pm, we will meet for a time of dinner and devotion. It will take place at the church office (9820 Northcross Center Court Huntersville). We will have some food brought in and, after dinner, have a brief devotion. Please look for a Signup Genius to RSVP so we know how much food to bring.

Holiday Worship Schedule

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Wednesday, December 9 th | 6:30pm | Dinner and Devotion |
| Wednesday, December 16 th | 6:30pm | Dinner and Devotion |
| Sunday, December 20 th | 9:30am | Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols |
| Thursday, December 24 th | 5:00pm | Festival of the Nativity |
| Sunday, December 27 th | 9:30am | Festival of Holy Innocents |



Huntersville Lutheran is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod