



NORTHDAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Northdale Lutheran Church & Academy

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“WE GROW IN GOD’S WORD SO THAT WE CAN GO WITH GOD’S WORD”

Meaning of the Advent Wreath - “Advent” means *Coming*

For centuries the Christian Church has made use of the Advent wreath during the four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas Eve. The Advent wreath as a whole reminds us of the immortality of our souls and God’s promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

During each Sunday of Advent, one candle is lit as it draws our attention to theme of that Advent week. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, each with their own significance.



1st Sunday in Advent – “The Watch Candle” (*Blue*)

The Christ Child who first came in humility at Christmas will one day come again in glory at the end of the age. And so we watch for the coming of that day.

2nd Sunday in Advent – “The Prepare Candle” (*Blue*)

Just as John the Baptist came preaching a message of repentance, so also we prepare our hearts with repentance for the birth of our Savior.

3rd Sunday in Advent – “The Proclaim Candle” (*Pink*)

Just as the angels proclaimed the news of Christ’s birth on that first Christmas Eve, so also we continue to proclaim the salvation of Christ to the ends of the earth.

4th Sunday in Advent – “The Behold Candle” (*Blue*)

Just as the Virgin Mary beheld the face of the Christ Child, so also we gaze into the manger to behold the face of the Christ Child’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

Christmas Eve – “The Christ Child Candle” (*White*)

The final candle lit on Christmas Eve, as we rejoice in the night our Savior is born.

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn, CW #309

The Advent of Our King

1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son, in flesh con - tent to be,

and we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.
him - self a ser - vant's form puts on to set his ser - vants free.

Advent Gathering

- M: 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.
- C: **We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.**
- M: We hear his call to watch.
- C: **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**
- M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

The lighting of the 1st Advent candle

3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain

nor let a faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
and his true mem - bers all u - nite with him in heav'n to reign.

Advent Confession and Absolution

M: Dear people of God, in the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to once again hear the glorious message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child, Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly celebration of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us set our hearts and minds on our repentance before God, and confess our sins for which the Christ Child was born to be our Savior.

C: Dear Lord Jesus, it was because of your great mercy and love for us, that you were born this Christmas season.

It is our innate sinfulness that demanded your perfect birth.

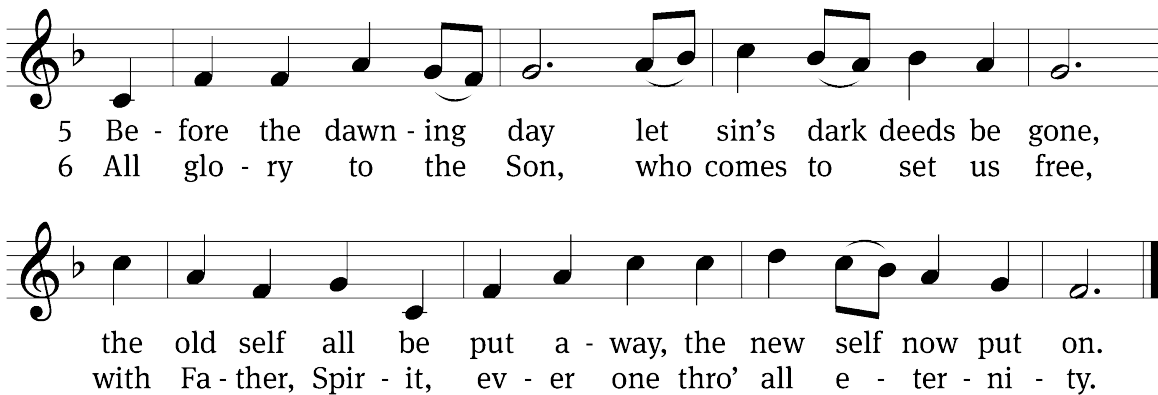
It is our daily failures that demanded your perfect life.

It is our deserved damnation that demanded your perfect death.

In the humbleness of your birth, you became our sacrifice for sin.

May we gaze upon the manger this Christmas season to see the face of our only Savior and Savior of all.

M: On that first Christmas Eve the angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Indeed this day, the Lord's favor rests upon you. For the Christ Child born to die, has now become our risen and ever-living Lord through his resurrection from the dead. Death is defeated and you are forgiven. In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.



First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

Christ's first advent (coming) was his birth in Bethlehem, coming as a servant for the salvation of all mankind. But we are reminded today of Christ's second advent (coming) when he will come to judge the world. The Prophet Isaiah recounts the Lord's judgment over sin as well as his great mercy to save.

¹Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ²As 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! ³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵You 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?

⁶All 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. ⁷No 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. ⁸Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Affirmation of Holy Baptism

Today we rejoice with Lawrence and Jaimie Seymour in the affirmation of baptism for their daughter Gemma June Seymour. May the Lord keep her in her baptismal grace always.

Children's Devotion

At this time, we invite all our young people to come forward to hear a special message prepared just for them.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

The first Sunday in Advent reminds us to “keep watch.” For the Christ Child who was born into this world, he will one day come back to judge the world. Therefore we stand each day ready in faith, for the day and hour of his return is unknown.

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

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

Sermon Text

Mark 12:32–37

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It’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. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

“Advent Ready”

Magnificat

After the angel Gabriel announced to Mary she would give birth to who would be the Savior of the world, Mary burst forth in a song of praise. “Magnificat” means to “Magnify” or “Give greatest praise.” In response to the Word of God this Advent season, we also sing Mary’s song of greatest praise.



My soul pro - claims the great - ness of the Lord; my spir - it re -
joic - es in God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with fa - vor
on his low - ly ser - vant. From this day all gen - er - a - tions
will call me bless - ed. The Al - might - y has done great
things for me, and ho - ly is his name. He has mer - cy on
those who fear him in ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.

He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the
proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y
from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.
He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich
he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the
help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his
prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,
to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert

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Confession of the 2nd Article and its Meaning

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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Offering

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34) The members of Northdale Lutheran joyfully give our offerings to the LORD in response to the many ways he has blessed us. Online giving is now set up and available through our membership software entitled Breeze. You can give through Breeze two ways: 1) You can give by texting “Give” to (813) 652-0408. 2). You can go to <https://northdale.breezechms.com/give/online>.

Hymn CW #315 vs 1-4

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Prayer of the Church

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. Amen.

Final Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with his favor and give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn CW #315 vs 5-6 **Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord**

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Announcements:

Bucs vs Packers!

Join us on Sunday, December 17th for a *Bucs Packers* party at church. Bring your own drinks, a tailgate dish to pass, and maybe your own comfortable chair. We will have the big TV setup and and Ready to go for game time. *Team clothing and decorations are optional.*

Christmas Decorating

We are decorating our sanctuary for the Christmas season after late service today. Please stick around to help as all hands are needed.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 6th	Advent Worship	6:30pm
Sunday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Morning	8:30am & 10:30am
Sunday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Candlelight	7:00pm
Sunday, December 31st	New Year’s Worship	8:30am & 10:30am

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant in honor/memorial of someone, envelope are on the entryway table. You will be able to take your poinsettia home after service on Christmas Eve.

Curtis Funeral

Funeral service Vida Curtis will be held on Friday, December 1st @ 10:30am at Bushnell Military Cemetery.

Choir Night

Our next Choir Night will be on Monday, December 4th @ 6:00pm. Join us as we prepare our anthems for Christmas Eve.

Pioneers

Our next Pioneer meeting will be on Thursday, December 7th @ 6:00pm. Pioneers is open to all 3rd-8th grade students for a time of faith, fellowship, and fun.

Congregational White Elephant

Our Congregational "White Elephant" Christmas Party will be on December 10th starting at 11:30am. Please bring a main dish and a side along to share for the potluck meal. Bring in wrapped gifts with a clue on the label (example: over 21, sports fan, kids 12 and under, etc). These gifts will be auctioned off to the highest bidder in a seasonal, FUNdraiser for the *Women of Northdale* sacristy organizational project (IKEA storage units to house banners, paraments, flowers, candles, Pastors robe, communion ware, etc.)

Bible Brunch

Our next Bible Brunch will be on December 13th @ 11:00am. Please bring a small dish to pass as we join for luncheon around God's word.

"Prayers For".....

"I urge then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people." (1 Timothy 2:1) As a body of Christ, we can show our love by praying for one another. Please submit all your prayer requests to the church office - office@northdalelutheran.org

Congregational Prayers For....

(Curtis Family) for Vida Curtis as she has passed away this week and is now at home with the Lord. *(Seymour Family)* for the affirmation of baptism for their daughter, Gemma June. *(Harry and Gladys Newton)* for their grandson Thomas and his family for the loss of their son Oliver Theodore Withstandly.

Serving Today

Music: 8:30/10:30 - Elizabeth Guse

Ushers: 8:30 - Busch

10:30 - Smayling/Schebel

Serving Next Week

Music: 8:30/10:30 - Daniel Roemhildt

Ushers: 8:30 - Raines/Picone

10:30 - Berg