

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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The Rev. Robert Vogl                      Brian Larson, Cantor

Assisting Minister: Dave Faller    Lector: Marilyn Langenbach

Communion Distribution: Fay Faller, Evy Okerstrom

## *First Sunday of Advent*    December 1, 2024 at 9:30 am

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*



### GATHERING

**Prelude**

Creator of the Stars of Night

George Brandon

Aria: *Watch for Messiah*

Michael Burkhardt

**Welcome**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath & Watch for Messiah**

Hymn 240



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

*Stand*

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors.

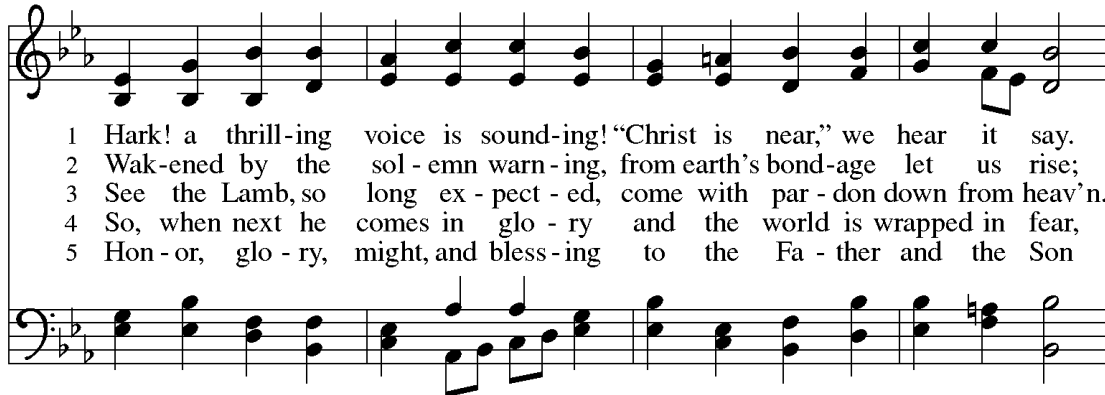
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

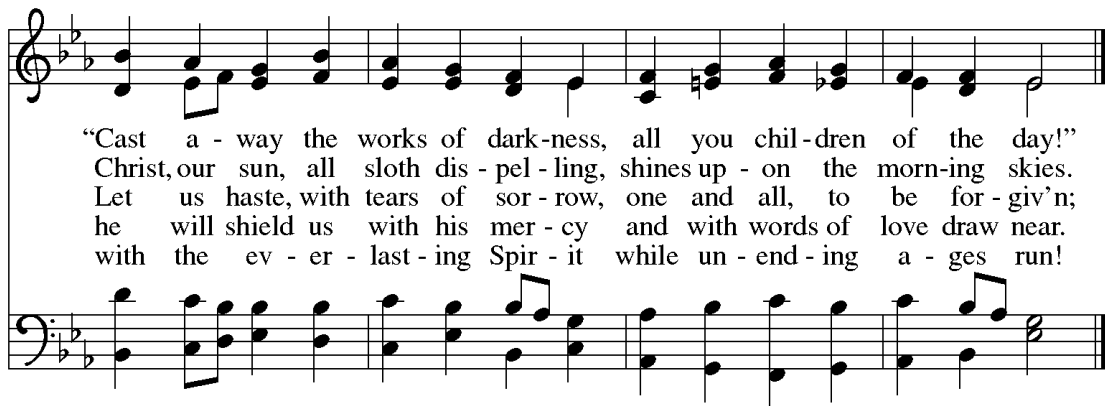
A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn 246

## Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
 2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, come with par-don down from heav'n.  
 4 So, when next he comes in glo-ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
 5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son



"Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"  
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
 Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for-giv'n;  
 he will shield us with his mer-cy and with words of love draw near.  
 with the ev-er-last-ing Spir-it while un-end-ing a-ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878  
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

## Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Advent Kyrie



Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*For watchful and ready hearts as we await the King of kings,  
 let us pray to the Lord. Refrain*

*For wisdom to see, for openness to hear,  
 and for courage to proclaim the advent of his reign,  
 let us pray to the Lord. Refrain*

*For his rule of peace and justice, for his kingdom of truth and love, l  
 et us pray to the Lord. Refrain*

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sit*

## WORD

### First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

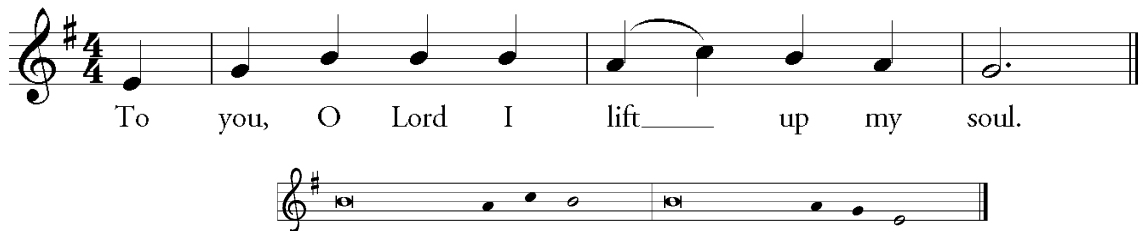
*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

A reading from Jeremiah. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 25:1-10

Choir sings the refrain and all repeat it.  
Verses are sung choir/congregation.



<sup>1</sup> To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the low-ly in justice  
and teach the low-ly your way.

<sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. Refrain**

## Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

A reading from First Thessalonians. <sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Message

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation: Wait for the Lord**

Hymn 262

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

*Stand up and | raise your heads — your redemption is | drawing near. (Luke 21:28)*

## Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.*

**Hymn of the Day ACS 1078**

**There Is a Longing in Our Hearts**

*Refrain — All*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

*Leader or All*



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955  
Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

**Nicene Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 truly 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

*Sit or kneel*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. *A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Stand*

**Peace** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

# MEAL

*Sit*

## Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts

**Choir**

O God of Peace

Hebrew melody

*O God of peace, O Word eternal, come, make our souls your earthly home.  
You are the light, the life, the pathway; pardon and grace that bring Shalom.  
O Savior, come! Come without delay. Your holy people watch and pray.*

*Lost on the path of gloom and darkness, we go in search of hope and light.  
Light that brings joy beyond all measure: Jesus, the dawn that ends the night.  
O Savior, come! Come without delay. Your holy people watch and pray.*

*Stand*

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and God of  
might: heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry. Hail, ho - san - na,  
Lord of light! Bless-ed be the com - ing Sav - - -  
ior. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

*Sit*

### **Invitation to Communion**

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.  
Grape juice is in the inner-most ring of glasses in each tray.*



## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn ACS 905

## We Are Waiting for Jesus

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
 Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957  
 Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

## Communion Hymn 247

## Come Now, O Prince of Peace

*O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm*  
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.  
*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.*  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope  
 Music: OSŎSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947  
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee

*Stand*

## Table Blessing and Communion Prayer

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

A: Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### Blessing

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn 260

### The King Shall Come



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: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

*Sit*

### Announcements

**Dismissal** Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

**Voluntary**

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

J.G. Walther

*Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments and conversation  
in the fellowship hall following worship.*

The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org).



### Commemorations this Week

**Tuesday, December 3 Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552** A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

**Wed., Dec. 4 John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749** A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

**Friday, December 6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342** Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

**Saturday, December 7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397** While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

### Real Worries, Real Hope

“Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.” With these words, often invoked at the table of holy communion, the church proclaims “the mystery of faith” (*ELW*, p. 110). At communion, we remember the good story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. But there is more! We also look forward to a time yet to be.

Thoughts of the future can inspire hopefulness for the promise of good things to come. Yet looking ahead can also conjure worries about what we do not know, or a sense of foreboding about what is out of our control. It’s hard not to hear in Jesus’ references to nature a warning about the dramatic effects of climate change. We inhabit a world in which ordinary signs that used to reliably mark the change of seasons are shifting. So when he talks about the trees sprouting leaves as a sure sign that summer is near, the image may leave us unsettled. In recent times, trees in some places have started budding when meteorological spring and summer are still months away. How will the trees respond when frost comes again? How is the church to respond in times such as these? Will the fig tree bloom on time this year?

Jesus’ parable of the fig tree comes smack-dab in the middle of some very disturbing news. Jesus offers an image of hope amid circumstances that seem all but hopeless. He talks of new growth even while what is old and familiar is passing away. Much like Jesus’ parable, the season of Advent invites the church to hold together these multiple, seemingly contradictory realities. We are called to rise up with courage and hope as we anticipate Jesus coming to us, without ignoring the weight of the world or neglecting our very real concerns. Jesus gathers us to the table where we remember his death but also his resurrection, where we pray for the world and also anticipate God’s redemption of all things.

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