

**BULLETIN FOR TRINITY MARBURG, ST JOHN'S MINDEN,
OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD.**

1st Sunday in Advent 3rd December 2017.

Closed Communion

The A.E.L.C upholds the historical, biblical and Lutheran practice of closed communion. Therefore we ask that only A.E.L.C members come forward for communion.

First Sunday in Advent

Mark 11:1-10

Hymns: 696, 332, 350, 335, 618, 331.

Introit: Psalm 80:1-7.

P Listen, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

C You, who are enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth.

P before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh!

C Stir up Your strength, and come to save us!

P Restore us, O God, and cause Your face to shine,

C that we may be saved!

P O LORD, God of hosts, how long will You smoulder

C in anger against the prayers of Your people?

P You have fed them with the bread of tears,

C and You have given them a third of a measure of tears to drink.

P You cause us to have strife with our neighbours,

C and our enemies are laughing among themselves.

All: O God of hosts, restore us, and cause Your face to shine, that we may be saved!

Collect: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9.

Gospel: Mark 11:1-10.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon this morning is written in the book of Mark 11:1-10, which was our gospel reading before.

1 When they were approaching Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples. **2** He told them, “Go into the village ahead of you! Just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied up, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here! **3** If anybody asks you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it!’ Then that person will promptly send it back here.”

4 They went and found a colt tied at a doorway, outside in the street, and began to untie it. **5** Some of the people standing there asked them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?”

6 They answered them just as Jesus had told them, and the people let them go. **7** They brought the colt to Jesus, put their cloaks over it, and He sat on it. **8** Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the fields and spread them on the road. **9** Those who went ahead and those who followed Him kept shouting: “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your word is truth. Amen.

Advent isn't a Baby Shower

by David Petersen

Advent has an eschatological emphasis that sometimes seems out of place with

the world's busy holiday, but it is actually a helpful antidote to the stress and unrealistic expectations of the season.

The traditional colour for Advent is violet. Violet is supposed to be purple, the colour of royalty, mixed with black, the colour for mourning. Some churches now use blue for Advent, which is meant to be the colour of hope. Either way, Advent is a mini-Lent.

Advent is preparation for Christmas even as Lent is preparation for Easter. Much to the chagrin of our fallen flesh, the Church always prepares in the same way: repentance. That seems like an unhappy thing, but it isn't.

John the Baptist is the Advent preacher *par excellence*. He didn't announce the Lord's birth to shepherds, but warned of coming wrath. He was a preacher of repentance but he also proclaimed the escape from that wrath that God has provided in the Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Advent isn't a baby shower. We aren't getting ready for a baby to be born in Bethlehem. That train has already left the station.

We celebrate that birth, to be sure, but whatever the season, following our Lord's command that we be vigilant for the end, we are always preparing His return. There will be a judgment. The goats will be separated from the sheep. It will be scary, but it will be joyous for the baptized because they will finally and fully be relieved of their sins.

Repentance isn't an unhappy thing because it is part of faith and faith, even in its sorrow and mourning, is always joyous. Don't get me wrong. The fear of the Lord is more than respect. God threatens to punish all who break His commandments. We don't simply "respect" His wrath, but we fear it, and we strive to obey His commandments because of that fear. But there is more in us, by grace, than fear, even as there is more in repentance than simply sorrow over sin. There is also love and trust, and in that we gladly obey what God has commanded.

John says: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." That is an eschatological reality. For Him to take away sin, means we have sins, that it is our fault, and for Him to take them away means that He must take them upon Himself and then suffer and die for them. The Babe born to Mary is born to be a Sacrifice and guilt offering. That is a horrible and yet at the same time a joyous thing for faith, for those who fear, love, and trust in God. That joyous sobriety, with an eye toward the end, is the real gift of the season and the cure for what ails and stresses us.

The Rev. David Petersen is senior pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

>Divine Service 10th December (Violet) 9am Our Saviour Lowood.
Readings : Psalm 85 2nd Sunday in Advent
Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11 Hymns: 12, 13, 11, 6, 295, 514.
Epistle: 2Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8.

> Divine Service 17th December (Violet) 6.30pm Trinity Marburg
Readings: Psalm 126 3rd Sunday in Advent
Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS TREE
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 NO MORNING SERVICE
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28. Hymns:

> CHILDRENS CHRISTMASS TREE SUNDAY 17th Dec MARBURG 6.30pm.
NO MORNING SERVICE.

>CHRISTMAS HYMNS/CAROLS FRIDAY 22nd Dec MINDEN 6.30pm.

> CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICE HC 9am LOWOOD

> CHRISTMAS DAY MINDEN HC 8am.

> Just a reminder to those who have copies of the LSB hymnal to bring them to a Minden Service to help out with numbers.

Vicar JAKE can be contacted on 0458251132.

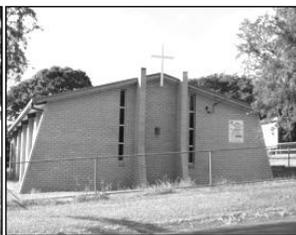
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