



First Sunday of Advent

November 28th, 2021

9:30 a.m.



In-person and Livestream (via Facebook) Worship

Atonement Lutheran Church

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY, 14618

* *Please Stand As You Are Able*

GATHERING

PRELUDE MUSIC

Macht hoch die Tür

-W. Callahan

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all time, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN**

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

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***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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WORD

READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

The first candle is lit.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



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.

*HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:1-25

During this Advent season, we will be reading the first chapter of the book of Luke.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

The King Shall Come

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***NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the church, with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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.**

PRAYERS

As we prepare for the coming of Christ, let us pray for all people according to their needs. Come, Lord Jesus; **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, as we await the presence of your Son, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

MEAL

***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.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

DISTRIBUTION

All the baptized are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.

~Come forward by the center aisle.

~Place your right hand over your left hand to receive the wafer of bread.

~Pick up a communion cup of wine at the small table.

~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.

~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Creator of the Stars of Night*

SENDING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray;

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

May Almighty God, † who sends us light to overcome all darkness, grant you grace, mercy, and peace. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Fling Wide the Door

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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

-B. Rose

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister	Joanne Scanlon
Livestream Recorder.....	Dave Irish
Altar Care	Judy Lazenby, Judy Karsten
Offering Counters	Bryan Howe, Tom Thompson
Usher	Skip Waterstreet

The Atonement Finance Committee is grateful for the pledge cards that have been received and welcome any additional submissions from members to help aid them in completing the 2022 Budget process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, December 12th at 10:30 a.m.

Join us as we discuss the proposed 2022 Atonement Budget in a hybrid meeting format. You are invited to participate in-person in Reissig Hall or at home via *Zoom*.

ADVENT COLLECTION

We will be coordinating this year with Center for Youth/Crisis Nursery for an Advent season collection of needed items. We will be collecting different items weekly This week's collection is *Toiletries for Teens*: deodorant, bodywash, lotion, shampoo/conditioner, hair accessories, toothpaste, toothbrushes, chapstick, hand soap. *Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE RECIPE EXCHANGE

Do you have one or two favorite recipes for Christmas cookies? Please share them with us for our *Atonement Christmas Cookie Recipe Booklet!* Traditional favorites as well as brand new cookie recipes are welcome. **Submit your recipes to the church office by December 1st.** Recipe booklets will be available online and as paper copies in time for your holiday baking.

GREEN TIP

Don't pre-heat your oven for more than 10 minutes, or peek in the oven. You lose about 25 degrees when you open the oven door.

THE SOUND OF SAFETY IN CHURCH

As we enter into the holiday season of this second year of the pandemic, we continue to request mask wearing in worship. Numbers of Covid-19 cases are increasing in Monroe County this month – with sharply rising positivity rates and hospitalizations.

THANK YOU for continuing to care for your neighbor and yourself by wearing a mask in worship and whenever you are in the church building. THANK YOU for your patience as we attempt to improve sound clarity in the sanctuary. Several worshipers have expressed some difficulty in hearing Pastor Gail preach while wearing a mask; and we will be looking into our microphone system to address this. In the meantime, let's stay as safe as possible. The pandemic lingers, but "let us not grow weary in doing what is right" (Galatians 6:9).

YOUR GUIDE FOR SUNDAY IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Welcome!

Please feel free to enter the building through the East, West or North entrances.

Face Masks:

Monroe County is now designated as a 'substantial' transmission area for COVID-19, with the CDC recommending that fully vaccinated people wear masks in public, indoor settings. In light of this information, and out of our care and concern for others, we are again requiring face masks to be worn during in-person worship, and for meetings and gatherings in the church building.

Hand Sanitizer:

Please observe good hygiene and hand sanitizing practices before entering the sanctuary.

Bulletins:

Bulletins and hymn packets are available in the narthex.

Offering Plates:

Are located near the sanctuary doors to receive your gifts.

Prayer Intentions Book: *(located near the entrance to the sanctuary)*

We invite you to write the names of people you would like included in our prayers during worship.

During Worship:

Windows will be open for fresh air

Congregational Singing is welcomed

Share the Peace with a gesture or words

Children's Moments: Kids are welcomed to come forward.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

Email: pastorgails@aol.com – Church Office: (585) 442-1018

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry

Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

Janeen Oliver, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

Email: office@atonementrochester.org

Website: www.atonementrochester.org

Facebook: [fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch)

WELCOME! Welcome to worship, and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today. If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation or learning more about our ministries, please speak to our pastor.



MISSION STATEMENT

*Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:
Invite all people into the presence of the living God,
Prepare for ministry in daily life and
Go into the world as disciples*

NURSERY CARE

Is Not Available Today.

Thank you for joining us in worship today!

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

1 John 4:7



Visit our web site at: **www.atonementrochester.org**
Follow us on Facebook: **fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/**
Contact us via Email: **office@atonementrochester.org**
Call us via phone at: **(585) 442-1018**
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