

Christ the King Sunday

Readings—November 20, 2022

Advent - The Season of Expectation

Reader: Advent - The Season of Expectation. The season of Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is the beginning of the Church Year. Advent is not just about preparing us for Christmas, but preparing us for the end of time. Advent means coming or arrival. The primary focus of Advent is on Christ's second coming. The beginning of the year moves us to the end of time where we await God's coming again. For when Christ returns, the fulfillment of God's plan of justice and peace for all creation will fully take affect. As we journeyed through this season, our focus was on hope. The color of Advent, symbolizing hope, is blue.

Action: The color blue is brought forward.

A reading From Luke.

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

9am Song: Even so Come

11am Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Verse 1 ELW 257

Christmas - The Season of Emmanuel

Reader: Christmas - The Season of Emmanuel. Welcome Jesus!

Welcome Emmanuel, God with us. The season of Christmas begins with the celebration of Christ's birth and continues for twelve days, ending on January 6. This is the season of gift giving with friends and family. We also tend to focus on giving to those who are less fortunate than ourselves and sharing our abundance in a variety of ways, like *ELCA Good Gifts* or in the red buckets of the Salvation Army. More importantly, Christmas is the season of God's gift, given to us in Jesus. As we journeyed through this time, our focus was on the presence of God in Christ coming into the world. The color of Christmas, symbolizing the light and purity of Jesus, is white.

Action: The color white is brought forward.

A reading from Luke.

Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

9am song: Joy to the world (Unspeakable Joy)

11am Song: "What Child Is This" Verse 1 ELW 296

Epiphany - The Season of Light for the World

Reader: Epiphany - The Season of Light for the World. January 6 is the Epiphany of our Lord and is a day when we celebrate the coming of the Magi to see Jesus. At one point in time, the Epiphany of our Lord was seen as the third holiest day in the Christian Calendar.

After January 6, we move into a season of growing in our faith as we explore stories such as the baptism of Jesus and those early beginnings of his ministry. During the time after the Epiphany, we celebrated the revelation of Jesus in every time and place throughout our world. The color for Epiphany is white, symbolizing the light of Jesus. After the day of Epiphany, we changed our color to green as we focused on understanding the growing mission of Jesus.

Action: The colors white and green are brought forward.

A reading from Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his

star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

9am song: You are the Light

11am Song: “Song of Thankfulness and Praise” Verse 1 ELW 310

Lent - The Season of Turning to God

Reader: Lent - The Season of turning to God. Lent marks the 40 days before Easter. This time symbolizes Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness. Lent is a time of preparation and thoughtful reflection on our life of faith and our relationship with God and the world. It is also a time to reflect on Jesus’ journey to the Cross. We culminate this journey through our Holy Week services of Palm Sunday,

Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Historically, Lenten disciplines or faith practices have included alms giving (sharing financial resources), prayer, and fasting. As we journeyed through this time, our focus was on returning to God. The color of Lent, symbolizing repentance and royalty, is purple.

Action: The color purple is brought forward.

A reading from Luke.

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

9am Song: Hosanna, praise is rising`

11am Song: "Were You There" (verses 1) ELW 353

Easter - The Season of Life

Reader: Easter - The Season of Life. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed, alleluia! This greeting rang out on Easter Sunday and throughout the next fifty days as we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is the high point of the Christian Year, with the celebration lasting for an amazing fifty days. One day is not enough, we rejoice at God's triumph over death and evil for a time longer than our somber period of Lent. As we journeyed through this time, our focus was on the risen Christ. The Paschal Candle stayed lit throughout these fifty days as a reminder to the season we were in.

The colors of Easter, symbolizing joy and the light of resurrection, are white and gold.

Action: The color white/gold is brought forward.

A reading from Luke.

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened

9am song: At the cross love ran red

11am Song: “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” verses 1ELW 365

Pentecost and the time after– The Season of Growing

Reader: Pentecost – The Season of growing. Pentecost is the fiftieth day of Easter, a day when we celebrate the gift of the Holy. It is a grand culmination of a joyous celebration. The color of the day of Pentecost, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit, is red. The season after Pentecost continues through the rest of the church year, returning us to Advent. This is sometimes called ‘the long green season’. Its official name is ‘ordinary time’ because there are no

major events in the life of the church that are celebrated. As we journeyed through this time, our focus was on the life and teachings of Jesus. The color of ordinary time, symbolizing growing in faith, is green.

Action: The colors red and green are brought forward.

A reading from John.

John 14: 15-20, 25-27

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

9am song: Consuming fire

11am Song: “God of Tempest...” (verses 1)ELW 400