

Prelude:

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (LSB 338, 2 verses)

Theme:

Today is the last Sunday of Advent and the final of the current sermon series. The topic for today is *Loving All*, a challenging topic. But then following our Lord does not mean our lives will be comfortable or easy. What does it mean to “love” someone? Might loving our family members be different than ‘loving’ a stranger? I think there is a difference.

Invocation:

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

Opening Hymn:

“The Advent of Our King” (LSB 331, 6 verses)

(Please stand)

Confession & Absolution:

Collect Of The Day:

All: Stir up Your power, O Lord, come and help us by Your might, that we, by your grace and mercy, will come to love all our neighbors as you have commanded; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Lesson Reading

Leviticus 19:9-18

The word ‘Leviticus’ means “relating to the Levites” the priestly tribe of Israel. In that book God gives the people laws, rules and regulations about how they are to relate with him and each other. In the text for today He delineates specific instruction on how they are to relate with one another. Loving one’s neighbor is a fundamental principle of the Torah, the Book of Moses.

Epistle Lesson Reading

1 John 4:7-12

The words “love” or “loved” are used 13 times in these six verses. It also contains a verse that many of us learned as children “God is love” meaning God loves continuously. Love is presented here as a result of, not a precondition for, being born of God. While unbelievers can love they don’t love in the way that God’s spirit in us enables us Christians to love. God’s love is the ultimate source of the love that we Christians are able to display.

(Please stand)

Gospel Lesson Reading
John 13:31-35

These are Jesus' words on the night of His betrayal. He has just eaten His Last Supper with the disciples, washed their feet and told them that he knows one of them will betray him. He is well aware of his impending death. Yet he is still teaching his disciples and gives them "new commandment" to love one another as he has loved them!

*God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:*

Nicene Creed (LSB #inside back cover)

(Please be seated)

Sermon Hymn:

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (LSB 700, 4 verses)

Sermon

Offering:

*We offer our gifts to God in humble gratitude acknowledging
that all we have comes from Him.*

During Offering Hymn:

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" (LSB 384, verses 1 & 5)

(Please stand)

Prayers of the Church:

"Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:"

The Lord's Prayer: (LSB - inside back cover)

Preface

The Words Of Our Lord:

Peace:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

Distribution Hymns:

"What Feast of Love" (WOV 701, 3 verses)

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" (LSB 348, 5 verses)

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (LSB 366, 4 verses)

Post Communion Hymn:

"Let All Together Praise Our God" (LSB 389, verses 1, 4 & 6)

Post Communion Collect:

Benediction:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Closing Hymn:

"Prepare the Royal Highway" (LSB 343, 4 verses)

P: Go in Peace,

Serve the Lord,

C: Thanks be to God



*Thank you for worshipping with us today.
Please join us downstairs for coffee and fellowship*