

# Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

December 2021

Greetings of Gods Peace and Blessings to all:

We continue to face difficulties that this Covid virus has brought to us all. We know many that continue to suffer with this and many families we know had loved ones gain their eternal reward. Even in this sadness that we feel; there is so much that we can be thankful for. God is with each of us always and guides us to goodness. It is his Will be done and we can rejoice in knowing our loved ones have been healed according to God's Way and now have gained Glory.

We come into a wonderful season of Advent and we have the opportunity to reflect on our thankfulness toward God. There is so much we can be thankful for in our lives such as family, friends and the opportunities to serve God and hear his Word in worship. All glory goes to God in our steps of life. All thankfulness goes to God in our life with him. For all things by him brings us to achieve triumph over this world that so often can bring trial to our lives. We can look at 2 Corinthians 2/14: 14Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. God brings us to victory in Jesus, and his amazing Grace comes over us so that we may share his Gospel message to all around us. God blesses us mightily and a reason to always be thankful;. The hymn says: Count your Blessings name them one by one, count your many blessing see what God has done.

What an amazing reason for us to be thankful in this Advent season knowing the gift given upon us by God. The birth of Jesus Christ who by God's Love was sent to save us from the sin of this world and bring us to salvation and eternal Life. We look at this time leading to the Christmas morning and prepare our hearts for the coming again of Jesus in all his Glory. We in patient Hope wait of that glorious return of Jesus Christ, no longer as a humble servant but as Christ the King. Yet, in this time we as well rejoice and celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. John 3/16 that so popular verse tells us of this 16For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

When we think of advent, we do not open one text and say here it is, but it is the entirety of the Bible that leads us to this time of preparation and celebration from Genesis to Revelations. The promise, the fulfillment and redemptive work that Jesus did for us in his incarnation is seen throughout the whole Bible. We look at this with Joy in our heart for we know that God said that by the seed of a woman one will come that will bruise the head of the serpent. Galatians 4/4 reminds us: 4But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law. We see in so many writings of the prophets in the old testament giving the people that hope of the coming of the Saviour. In Isaiah almost an exact account of the birth of Jesus and what his life will be. In the New testament, the book of Luke as well as the other Gospels, gives the life of Jesus for us to study and understand. Jesus in his life, suffered, died and resurrected for us. That is the Joy we have in the birth of his coming. Everything in this Holy Book points to the moment of Jesus and then to his return.

We must always know our heart in this life. Are we living for Jesus a life that is true or are we making choices that bring our hearts into the darkness of the world? Examine your life, and your heart and know who or what you are serving. God knows your heart. There will be that time that Jesus will call us to our last breath, and we must make account for our lives. There will be that time he will return to gather the Holy Children of God. In John 14/3 we have that promise from Jesus : And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. He will return and is it such when he returns we kneel in Joy and rejoicing or is it that one trembles in fear. This advent season is a time of preparation for this second coming. Matthew 25/31: When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: We should have Joy in our hearts in that patient hope of the glorious moment when Jesus comes to receive us.

I do pray that each of you can reflect and celebrate in this season and spend time with family. Rejoice in the Lord and always keep God first in your life in all you do. Share this with your young, with your neighbors, so they always know that Jesus was brought to us to bring us Life.

From Genesis to Revelations this Word points to the coming of our Saviour and his return to bring us to heaven. Luke 2/7: 11For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

I do wish each of you a Merry Christmas. Celebrate his Birth, prepare for his return.

God's Grace, Mercy and Peace be with you all,

Jon Salo  
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