

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Communicants believing this word of promise receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

## **INTROIT**

*Psalm 25:1–3; Antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b*

*Behold, your king is coming to you,  
righteous and having salvation.*

*To You, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.*

*O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.*

*Indeed none who wait for you shall ever be put to shame,  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Behold, your king is coming to you,  
righteous and having salvation.*

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *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.*

**G** *Amen*

## **GRADUAL**

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26*

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

*Behold, your king is coming to you,  
righteous and having salvation.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
From the house of the Lord we bless you.*

## **RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

After each petition:

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**G** hear our prayer.

## Isaiah 64:1–9 (ESV)

Oh that you would rend the heavens  
and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your  
presence—

<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your  
adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at  
your presence!

<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome things  
that we did not look for,  
you came down, the mountains quaked  
at your presence.

<sup>4</sup> From of old no one has heard  
or perceived by the ear,  
no eye has seen a God besides  
you,  
who acts for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup> You meet him who joyfully works  
righteousness,  
those who remember you in your  
ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we  
sinned;  
in our sins we have been a long time,  
and shall we be saved?

<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who  
is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a  
polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take  
us away.

<sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls upon  
your name,  
who rouses himself to take hold of  
you;

for you have hidden your face  
from us,  
and have made us melt in the hand of  
our iniquities.

<sup>8</sup> But now, O LORD, you are our  
Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup> Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,  
and remember not iniquity forever.  
Behold, please look, we are all your  
people.

## 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God  
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for  
you because of the grace of God that  
was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in  
every way you were enriched in him in  
all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even  
as the testimony about Christ was  
confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you  
are not lacking in any gift, as you wait  
for the revealing of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the  
end, guiltless in the day of our Lord  
Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by  
whom you were called into the  
fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

## Mark 11:1-10 (ESV)

Now when they drew near to  
Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany,  
at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two  
of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and said to them, “Go  
into the village in front of you, and  
immediately as you enter it you will  
find a colt tied, on which no one has  
ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If  
anyone says to you, ‘Why are you  
doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of  
it and will send it back here  
immediately.’” <sup>4</sup> And they went away  
and found a colt tied at a door outside  
in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup> And  
some of those standing there said to  
them, “What are you doing, untying

the colt?" <sup>6</sup>And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup>And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the

fields. <sup>9</sup>And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

## THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 64:1–9

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Mark 11:1–10 (Mark 13:24–37)

### *The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us*

Although we pray that God “*would rend the heavens and come down*” (Is. 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves “*have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment*” (Is. 64:6). We have continued in our sins for “*a long time, and shall we be saved?*” (Is. 64:5). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the Cross (Mark 11:4–8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel we are “*enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge,*” and so He will “*sustain you to the end*” (1 Cor. 1:5, 8). Although “*heaven and earth will pass away,*” His words “*will not pass away*” (Mark 13:31). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He “*send out the angels*” to gather us and all of His elect “*from the ends of the earth*” to Himself in heaven forever (Mark 13:27).

### *Next Week's Readings from God's Word:*

December 6: Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85 (v.9); 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8