



Written by WELS Women's Ministry

Theme:

We are in the season of Advent, which means “coming.” When someone is coming over, what do you do? It depends on who is coming and why they are coming. If it’s a good friend popping in for a quick visit, you don’t worry too much about how the house looks or serving a meal. But imagine the governor is coming over for an evening to give you some sort of citizen’s award. That’s a big deal. There is work to be done: deep cleaning, planning a menu, getting the yard looking its best, and so on.

So, is Advent a big deal? It depends on who is coming and why they are coming. During Advent, we get the answer to that question. We see that our King, Jesus, is coming. We see why King Jesus came on that first Christmas and why he will come again on judgment day. In this season of Advent, we also cherish the way King Jesus comes to us today in his Word, establishing his reign in our hearts.*

**The theme information corresponds with the worship planning resource in Year B of The Foundation resource provided by WELS Congregational Services.*

Scripture based on:

Prophecies foretelling the coming of King Jesus and how he is the perfect fulfillment of those prophecies

Program notes:

- Shortening the program
 - Words in blue font can be removed to shorten the service without losing any important thoughts or concepts.
 - Consider only singing 1 verse of a familiar or simple (easy-to-sing) hymn during a hymn section, rather than the suggested 2-3 verses.
 - Optional videos are suggested throughout the program—they add value but are not required for content. (Videos must be purchased on your own.)
- PowerPoint Slides (PPT) are available to complement the program. PPT slide numbers are listed throughout the program. *Note: If you edit and adjust the PPT file and slides, you may need to adjust your numbering in the program to match.*
- Hymn suggestions from *Christian Worship* are listed in the program as they correspond with each specific part.

Approximate Length	Suggested Ensemble	Program Inclusions
60 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1 Leader ✓ 5 Readers ✓ Musicians ✓ 1 person to run/advance PPT if using additional media options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicity Checklist • Fonts + Licensing Information • Program Guide • Service Folder • Social Media Graphics • PowerPoint



The King Shall Come

PPT Slide 1

PPT Slide 2

OPENING HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

309 – The Advent of Our King

313 – Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

327 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (this also fits under an upcoming section)

PPT Slide 3

WELCOME

Leader: On September 8, 2022, Queen Elizabeth II, Britain’s longest-reigning monarch, passed away after 70 years on the throne. Did you watch her funeral and all of the pomp and circumstance surrounding it? Thousands of people filed past her casket as she lay in state. Millions of people around the world streamed her funeral ceremony. The extravagant proceedings reflected her royal status.

As Americans, we have limited exposure to royalty, and we aren’t especially familiar with queens and kings. But we know what types of qualities they need. We expect leadership, honesty, strength, and compassion. Our time together [today/tonight] will focus our attention on Jesus—the King who has come to be our Savior.

By nature of their position, kings carry a certain weight, a respectable status, and admirable standing. In a country ruled by a king, the king is known by his subjects. In a country ruled by a good king, the king is respected by his subjects. And in a country ruled by a great king, the king is loved by all his subjects. Great kings command loyalty, honor, and devotion from the people they rule. They are treated with the utmost respect and held in the highest esteem.

[Today/tonight] we’ll hear about Jesus—the greatest king who has ever lived. We’ll return to the beginning of time to remember why he needed to come as a king. We’ll read prophecies from Scripture about this great king and pause to reflect on his perfect humility. Finally, we will see that we can expect him to come into our hearts by faith and return with glory and power to take us home to heaven.

Let’s open with prayer.

PRAYER

Leader: Heavenly Father, as we gather around your Word, we pray that you would be with us. Bring joy to our hearts as we remember the birth of your Son. Hear our praises because he is our victorious King. Let his birth brighten our celebrations, bring hope to the hurting, and fill lost souls with love. Embolden our faith today as we hear that Christ the King has conquered sin, death, and the devil. Help us see the debt of our sin and then show us the payment of Christ's death as a full pardon. Thank you for your grace and forgiveness. Keep us in your loving care until you return in glory as our Lord and King. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PPT Slide 4

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

495 – The King Shall Come

305 – Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

320 – As Angels Joyed with One Accord

PPT Slide 5

Why the King Came

Reader 1: We don't need to look much further than in our own homes and in our own hearts to know why we need a Savior. How did your day go today? Did you lose your temper with one of your children? Did you exchange angry words with your spouse? Did you share some gossip with a friend about another friend? You aren't alone. The need for a Savior from sin is something we all share, which is why King Jesus came.

During the Christmas season we celebrate Jesus, the King of kings. We offer songs of praise and gifts of thankfulness. We delight in joyful celebrations. We look for ways to bring peace and fullness to the season and show love to those around us. However, to fully celebrate the glory of our King Jesus, we need to remember why he came. We need to look back to the beginning of time when God made Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is only in the garden that we clearly understand why Jesus had to come as a baby—and why we need him to be our King.

When God created the world, it was perfect. The earth, every living creature, and the first two people that he made were all holy and flawless. There was no sin, death, sickness, or pain. Adam and Eve were the crown of God's creation, and they reflected all that is good and holy about God. They lived in his presence, enjoyed his companionship, and loved God as their Lord and King. To show their love to God, they obeyed his one command—not to eat from a specific tree in the garden.

But in an instant, God's perfect world changed. Though Adam and Eve knew God's command, they chose to eat the fruit he had forbidden. And in that moment, Adam and Eve lost their relationship with God. They threw away their perfect life because they believed Satan's lie. They faced temptation and chose the one thing they were forbidden to take—fruit from the tree. Their relationship with God was broken, and they were separated from God because of sin.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God came to them in the garden, but they were hiding. They tried to cover themselves with leaves and make excuses for their actions. But God made it clear—there would be consequences for sin. Now, Adam and Eve needed to be restored in their relationship with God, but they

couldn't pay the price for their sin. They needed God's forgiveness and mercy—but who could bear the weight of their sin and suffer God's punishment in their place? They needed a Savior—a King who would conquer sin, death, and the devil.

It's easy for us to distance ourselves from the story of Adam and Eve. It happened a long time ago. The world was a different place. We are different people. We don't face simple temptations like eating fruit from a tree. We face a thousand complex temptations and often feel like we lack strength, self-control, or hope. Satan's subtle, masqueraded voice is still heard. He slithers to a convenient spot and tempts us with a well-schemed plan. We can easily become entangled, enticed, and overwhelmed. Like Adam and Eve, we fail. We choose sin. We have broken our relationship with God and need forgiveness. Every day.

And that's why the rest of [today's/tonight's] story is so special—because Jesus met our greatest need and died for our sins. Jesus paid the price to bring us back into a right relationship with God. We are redeemed, restored, forgiven because Jesus was born to be our Savior. He completed God's plan of salvation when he died for our sins. He fulfilled God's promises, crushed the devil, and won the victory over death. He was raised to life and now he lives eternally as our King.

[Today/tonight] we celebrate Jesus because we need a Savior and a King.

PPT Slides 6-8

Please join me in reading responsively the reminder of our need for Jesus.

RESPONSIVE READING

Reader 1: Lord God, long ago you made our world—a beautiful creation designed by your majestic hand.

All: You intricately shaped humanity and gave us the breath of life.

Reader 1: Yet sin entered the world, and we are separated from you.

All: We have been tempted. We have chosen sin. We have failed to do good.

Reader 1: We confess our sin, Lord. We repent and ask you to forgive us.

All: Grant us your grace—for Christ our King died to give us eternal life.

Reader 1: Christ our King has conquered sin, death, and the devil. We are free!

All: We praise you as our Lord and King and celebrate the birth of our Savior!

PPT Slide 9

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

574 - The Tree of Life (solo or small group)

327 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

523 - How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Expecting a King

Reader 2: When someone is coming over to your house, what do you typically do? It depends on who is coming and why. If it's a good friend popping in for a quick visit, you don't worry too much about how the house looks or serving a fancy, multi-course meal. But imagine that the mayor or governor is coming over for an evening to give you some sort of citizen's award. That's a big deal. There is work to be done: deep cleaning, planning a menu, getting the yard looking its best, and so on. How we prepare for that visit depends on the visitor.

Many years ago, when a king traveled, his trip required much preparation. His route was planned, the roads were made ready, and messengers announced his coming. Regal attendants rode before his royal carriage, and citizens knew their ruler was approaching.

In the same way, the coming of Jesus was announced for thousands of years, and much preparation was done. The prophets had proclaimed the coming King, but hearts were growing cold. The journey of faith had become muddled for many of God's people. Someone would need to call attention to the spiritual apathy, disregard for Scripture, and worldly living. So God sent the voice of John the Baptist to call people to repentance and cherish their coming King. And Jesus came.

Jesus demanded no pomp and circumstance, yet he had been announced by the prophets and was attended by an angelic host. He arrived exactly the way God had planned. All of the Old Testament prophecies about the Savior King had come true. These promises had given hope to Old Testament believers. Their King would one day come! Now, it was clear—God had been faithful to his promise to save his people. We treasure these words of prophecy, and they are a rich blessing for us today. For us, they prove that Jesus is the one that God promised to send. We can trust God's promises because he has always kept his promises—especially his promise to save us from our sin.

We listen to the promises of God in Scripture and hear the good news that Jesus has freed us from the guilt and shame that taunts us. God announces that his people will be set free from the weight of disappointment, broken relationships, and unexpected heartache. The empty, unsettled spirit in our hearts is filled by the love of Jesus. The Savior King has paid our debt of sin and brought us into a relationship with him that is filled with peace, comfort, and rest. Our King protects and unites us—he rules over us with love and fills our longings with joy.

PPT Slide 11

VIDEO [Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#)

PPT Slide 12

Expect this King. Expect him to come in fulfillment of his promises, according to God's plan for salvation. Expect him to come into your heart and forgive your sins. He will give you mercy, grace, and peace for he is the King we have all been waiting for.

PPT Slides 13-19

Join me in reflecting on these beautiful prophecies:

RESPONSIVE READING

Reader 2: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

All: The virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus and named him “Immanuel—God is with us.”

Reader 2: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times (Micah 5:2).

All: Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Reader 2: The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his (Genesis 49:10).

All: Jesus was born to be the King.

Reader 2: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this (Isaiah 9:6,7).

All: Jesus is the King of kings; he rules over all things with perfect righteousness and justice.

Reader 2: Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom (Psalm 45:6).

All: Jesus will rule for eternity.

Reader 2: Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. . . . The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:1,2).

All: Jesus came to bring life and light to those in need.

Reader 2: Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).

All: Jesus humbly rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while the people sang his praises.

PPT Slide 20

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

302 – Prepare the Royal Highway (consider using an arrangement with percussion)

316 – On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

322 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The King Who Came in Humility

Reader 3: The king's arrival was imminent. In most situations, everyone would be prepared for his coming and know exactly when he would arrive. The road would be ready, and the trumpets would herald his pending arrival. The king would be showered with gifts, and people would line up to see their ruler, hoping for some acknowledgement.

The greatest king of all time should have received such a reception. The Savior's coming had been foretold for centuries, and the people of Israel were anxious for his arrival. An extravagant welcome should have included a banquet fit for royalty, priceless gifts, and a glorious parade. Many of God's people were hoping for something like this . . . regal attendants, a magnificent feast, and a powerful king who would make political changes.

However, what happened was radically different.

PPT Slide 22

VIDEO [The First Coming](#)

PPT Slide 23

In reality, God accomplished his perfect plan without the distraction of earthly pride or worldly promenade. Jesus came as a helpless baby, born in a stable and placed in a feeding trough. Nothing about his birth seemed majestic.

Yet the events that surrounded his coming were exactly what God planned. The skies over Bethlehem exploded with the glory of the Lord, and a choir of angels proclaimed the birth of their King. Shepherds paid homage to the newborn and spread the word of his arrival. The Savior and King that God promised was finally here! King Jesus knew his mission and purpose—he came to pay the debt of sinners and be the perfect sacrifice that would bring forgiveness to all who trust in his name.

That's you and me.

We need the forgiveness that Jesus brings. We need his payment for sin that we receive through faith. We need the tiny baby who came in humility to bring grace. We need the King who came at Christmas to conquer our fear and pay the price to be part of his royal family.

For all the things that we think about this Christmas and all the things that we spend time doing—for all the people that we are with—the most important thing is that the baby born at Christmas is our Savior and King. Though he came in humility, he was born to make us his holy people.

Listen to him proclaim that you are his. And he says you are holy because of him.

PPT Slide 24

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).

PPT Slide 25

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

311 - Dawning Light of Our Salvation (a small group could sing the verses and all can join in the chorus)

344 - What Child Is This

351 - He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded

357 - A Glory Fills the Midnight Sky

PPT Slide 26

The King's History

Reader 4: When you were in school, did you love history class? Or did you hate it? To many people, history is a boring collection of dry facts, names, and dates that needed to be memorized to get a passing grade on a test. But the history of King Jesus is anything but boring, as we will see [today/tonight].

The pages of history are filled with the accomplishments of great kings. Their stories are legendary, filled with battles, good deeds, and triumphs. Through their stories of success and failure, future leaders are shaped, dreams are aspired to, and political moves are influenced. Long after their rule, the history and character of kings live on through the accounts of history.

The account of Jesus our King abounds in historical literature. His life is documented in many places. But most importantly, the Bible contains the history of Jesus with all the details that God wants us to have. Everything that pertains to our salvation, accomplished by Jesus, is written in the Word.

The Old Testament prophecies point us to our Savior and reveal God's promises and plan of salvation. In the New Testament, we read about the birth of Jesus at Christmas with beauty, truth, and hope. The King had come to save his people.

The Bible records many of the events in Jesus' life. Jesus is baptized and acknowledged by God. The sermons, teachings, and words of Jesus are recorded so we can hear his message with our own ears. The miracles of Jesus are recorded to show us that he is truly God with gifts of healing and wisdom. As true man, he is radiant with compassion and kindness.

The passion, or suffering, of Christ before his death is also recorded with great detail in all its ugliness and gore. The history of our King includes his betrayal by a close friend, a trial that mocked justice, and leaders that manipulated decisions for their own good. The crucifixion and death of Jesus are written as a historical event, but even more, they show us the payment needed for sin. Greater than any battle chronicled in history, the fight against sin, death, and Satan was costly. King Jesus freely offered himself as a sacrifice for his people to win forgiveness and release them from the slavery of sin. And Jesus died.

But unlike any earthly king or religious leader, Jesus is risen from the dead. His glorious resurrection, chronicled with certainty, assures us that our sins have been paid for and we are at peace with God. His kingdom endures forever; his rule is eternal. This part of Jesus' story gives us hope, confidence, and joy that we will live in heaven. Because he is alive, we know that he is with us—he is still making history by working in us and through us to love others and share the good news of his grace.

The history being created today is the story of Jesus in you. Your story includes the King who saved you, his spirit that lives in you, and his calling for you to live with purpose. By learning his story and truth in the Bible, we are equipped for this life. He strengthens us to fight against temptation, helps us trust that our sins are forgiven, and gives us love to share with others.

PPT Slides 27-29

Join with me in recalling the prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus our King.

RESPONSIVE READING

Reader 4: For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty (2 Peter 1:16).

All: There were eyewitnesses of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection.

Reader 4: He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain (2 Peter 1:17,18).

All: Jesus was baptized, and God announced that Jesus was his Son.

Reader 4: We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts (2 Peter 1:19).

All: We trust that Jesus is God, come as our King to save us from our sins.

PPT Slide 30

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

385 - Christ Begins

386 - Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

517 - Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

535 - Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

PPT Slide 31

The King Will Return

Reader 5: Have you ever wondered what it will be like on the day King Jesus returns again in triumph? Does imagining it fill you with wonder? fear? joy? relief? anxiety? Or maybe all of those things? Are you ready for him to return?

In the legends of earthly kings, many leaders returned from defeat, won a rousing victory, and reclaimed what they had lost. At times, these returns and victories were expected.

King Jesus has a similar story, but his return and victory are eternal.

After his resurrection, Jesus visited many of his followers and was seen by hundreds of people. Then, at his ascension, Jesus promised he would come back one day at the end of time. As Christians, we look forward to this final great coming of Jesus on judgment day.

And what will judgment day bring?

Unlike his humble birth in Bethlehem, Jesus will return with glory, power, and final judgment. It won't just be a few shepherds that hear about his arrival. The whole world will know that Jesus has returned, and his kingdom will last forever.

It almost sounds scary. But Jesus tells us he is returning to take us home because he has prepared a place for us. He won eternal life for us, and he will return so we can live with him forever. Because of his sacrifice, our sins are forgiven, and we will enter the gates of heaven with robes of righteousness given to us by the King himself.

This great hope—that Jesus will return—shapes how we celebrate Christmas. We celebrate a little baby born in a stable, but his birth is remembered because he is a King who will return. He is a King who won the greatest victory and will return to bring his people home. So we aren't simply celebrating the birthday of a great man. We are celebrating that our victorious King and Savior is born.

PPT Slide 32

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. . . . He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed (Daniel 7:13,14).

PPT Slide 33

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

524 – Rejoice, the Lord Is King

307 – When the King Shall Come Again

487 – Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

PPT Slide 34

CLOSING

Leader: The King has come. He has come to pay for the sins that burden your heart and plague you with shame. We celebrate his birth because the guilt has been removed. You are free from the bondage of sin because God is merciful and gracious. You can expect him to remain faithful to his promises—and you can be certain of your salvation because Christ has paid for your sins. You can read your Bible to learn about him and see that he fulfilled every prophecy. Though Christ came in gentleness with humility, he died, is risen, and will return to bring us to his home in eternity.

PRAYER

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are the great King above all kings. You came to earth as a child and lived a righteous life for us. You did everything God promised you would do. You died to pay for our sins and rose again as the King who defeated Satan, the world, and the sins that separated us from God. We celebrate your birth because you are our Savior and Lord. We praise you for the precious promises in your Word that tell us again and again that we are your beloved children. Fill our hearts with hope for your return and the glories of heaven that await us because of your loving mercy. Keep all these thoughts in our minds as we face our busy tasks in the weeks ahead. Help us focus every day on the truth that you are our King who has come, paid the debt of sin, and will return to take us home. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

PPT Slide 35

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Optional Note: We recommend reserving the traditional “Silent Night” candlelight experience for Christmas Eve. It’s tempting for guests to think they’ve had the “Christmas” experience and not return for worship on Christmas Eve. This Advent by Candlelight should leave them joyful for our King. “Joy to the World” could be used as an alternative.

PPT Slide 36

CLOSING HYMN: *Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn*

352 – Joy Has Dawned

353 – Joy to the World

PPT Slides 37-39