

# The Gifts of Advent

## Week 1: The Gift of Patience



*A gift is given freely and offered in love. In the weeks before Christmas, we often race around finding just the right gifts for friends and family. The season of Advent is itself a gift—a time set apart to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. We give thanks for God's gift to us in the baby of Bethlehem.*

*This series highlights four aspects of Advent that become blessings and gifts in our lives: patience, speech and silence, hope, and family.*

## Week 1: The Gift of Patience

Waiting is hard. We eagerly anticipate the desires of our hearts and want them to come soon. We wait for the first day of school or the first snowfall. We wait to see a loved one or to hear a doctor's news. Just as the farmer waits for crops or the fig tree waits for summer, we are reminded to be patient until the coming of the Lord.

### Opening Dialogue (*Ps. 37:7; Heb. 12:9*)

"Patience is a virtue," we hear it said.

**But the wait is long; we cannot see the end.**

"Rome wasn't built in just a day."

**We rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him.**

"Patience is also a form of action."

**So we run with endurance the race set before us.**

"How poor are they that have not patience!"

**We are rich in our hope of the promised Messiah.**

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

### Gathering Song—ELW #262

### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### Prayer (*Luke 2:30-32*)

O God for whom we long,  
we thank you for the gift of patience.  
Grant peace in our hearts as we wait with hope,  
that we may sing with Simeon:

**My eyes have seen your salvation,  
a light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
your gift to all the world. **Amen.**

**Psalmody**—Psalm 37:1-9

**Reading**—James 5:7-11

### **Song**

For each perfect gift of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine,  
to our world so freely giv'n:  
Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
Virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDENHEILAND (ELW #879 st. 5; ELW #263 st. 6)

**Gospel**—Mark 13:24-37

### **Reflection**

*The reflection concludes:*

God has given us eternal life,  
**and this life is in Jesus, God's Son.**

**Hymn**—ELW #655

### **Prayers**

For this time of waiting and watching for the coming of our Savior, **we give you thanks, O Lord.** When the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words, **we cry to you, O Lord.**

For the hope that shines through the darkest night, **we turn to you, O Lord.**

For the gift of friends and family who walk with us through life, **we praise your name, O Lord.**

Gather us all under the promise of your Son, who taught us to pray: **Our Father...**

**Blessing**

The peace of God accompany your waiting, the light of Christ warm your hearts, and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope. **Amen.**

**Sending Song**—ELW #254**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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