

### **While the world is waiting, so is the Church**

We are waiting these days. I think we all are. This year, at this time of the year, we are not only waiting for Christmas; we are waiting for the cloud to lift that has hung over all things all through this last year, the restrictions as well as the constant sense that has been instilled in us all through the year that it is but a matter of time before we will get sick and most probably die, or be guilty of the death of somebody else. Someone of us are waiting for a vaccine to become available; those of us who do are listening to the prospects and counting months, hoping that the vaccine will be available to ourselves before it is too late. Some have decided that a vaccine will do no good, and are not looking forward to one. Nevertheless, we are all waiting for it all to be over with. We are longing for deliverance!

Like everybody else, the Church of Christ is looking forward to her deliverance. She is that particularly these days, although she always has been. And looking forward to her deliverance these days in particular reminds her that the deliverance to which she is looking forward these days in particular is that for which she has always been longing, and always should be.

It is the season of Advent. The Church of Christ meditates upon the coming of the Christ. As she listens to the Old Testament promises of the One who was to come and shares in the longing of the fathers, she rejoices that He who was to come has come, and has brought the promised salvation to completion. And she rejoices that He shall come again in glory to bring to completion what yet remains and bring an end to all sufferings and sorrows of this life and make all things well for ever; or, as the Letter to the Hebrews says it, that "Christ who was offered once to bear the sins of many will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those eagerly awaiting Him."

While we wait, we remember and rejoice that all that was promised is ours already. It has been given to us, and it still is. He who was to come, and has come, and shall come in glory to judge both the living and the dead, He comes to His Church whenever she gathers for His Word and worship, and gives Himself to us with all that He is and all that is His. And so we know that no matter what else happens, His salvation is and remains ours; and no matter when He comes, it will not be too late for us. What He gives shall not be taken away from us.

*Pastor Jais H. Tinglund*

*Grace Lutheran Church, Greybull/Zion Lutheran Church, Emblem*