



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 29, 2020

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### *God in the Manger*

#### **As We Gather**

We begin a new Church Year boldly begging for the advent of our risen Lord Jesus, His final coming to rescue and save us. Our boldness, however, is tempered with the humility of faith that says, "Nevertheless, Thy will be done." For we know and even expect that His answer to our prayer will be hidden in mystery. It may be the mystery of our continued cry for mercy or the surprise of His final advent as victorious Lord and Judge of all. We know what followed our Lord's humble entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week of His passion, namely, the mystery and surprise that His victory and the glory of God should be displayed for all the world on a cross. So today we pray with bold humility and confidence, for His coming and deliverance will always have a note of surprise—blessed surprise.

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#### **Prelude & Welcome**

#### **Ringing of the Tower Bell**

#### **355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide**

- 1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;  
Come down, come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;  
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.
  
- 2 O Father, light from heaven send;  
As morning dew, O Son, descend.  
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:  
To Jacob's line rain down the King.

- 3 O earth, in flow'ring bud be seen;  
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare,  
Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.
- 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?  
When will You come with comfort strong?  
O come, O come, Your throne forego;  
Console us in our vale of woe.
- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without Your light  
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O come, lead us with mighty hand  
From exile to our promised land.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring  
And sing to You, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud You and adore  
Forever and forevermore.

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## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*1 John 1:8; John 3:16; Matthew 5:16*

- P** As we begin a new Church Year, let us put behind us everything in the past that would disqualify us from a new life, and remembering our Baptism, we boldly petition our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking for our entry into His presence and His plan and future for us, saying, stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,
- C** **that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.**
- P** What are those threatening perils? I now ask you before God, who searches the heart, do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?
- C** **I do confess.**
- P** So you should confess as Holy Scripture says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Do you also repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

- C** **I do repent.**

- P** So you should repent as did King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

**C** **I do believe.**

- P** So you should believe as Holy Scripture declares, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

**C** **I do promise.**

- P** So you should promise for Christ the Lord says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Finally, do you believe that in the absolution spoken by me as a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

**C** **I do believe.**

- P** As you believe, even so may it be to you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

- P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

**C** **that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. Amen.**

### **Lighting the Advent Candle**

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.**  
**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**C** **and illumine Your Church.**

### **We Light the Advent Candle**

*st. 1*

- 1** **We light the Advent candle  
And wait for Christ to come.  
With hope, we trust the promise  
That He will bring us home.  
Our hope is in our Savior  
Who wins for us God's favor.  
We wait with growing light  
Till God makes all things right!**

## Introit

*Psalm 25:1–3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

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 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.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

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.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament

***Isaiah 64:1-9***

<sup>1</sup>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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

*Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon: v. 7*

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.  
<sup>2</sup>Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,  
stir up your might  
and come to save us!  
<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!  
<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
<sup>6</sup>You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh among themselves.  
<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

## Reading

**James 5:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

## Verse for Advent 1



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**A** Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**C** **REFRAIN**

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## Reading

**Luke 1:67-79**

<sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

<sup>68</sup>“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
<sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
<sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
<sup>74</sup>that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of  
death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

## Children's Sermon "Made New"

### **350** Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

- 1** Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.
- 2** Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my guest divine!

3 My hosannas and my palms  
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can,  
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!  
Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,  
Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing:  
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

### Sermon "Waiting for God in the Manger"

*(based on today's readings)*

#### ADVENT THEME HYMN - "Dear God in the Manger"

See God in the Manger; His splendor above  
He left far behind Him, descended in love.  
His advent, so humble; His passion, so pure,  
His life to be taken our life to assure!

The kindred of Israel awaited on earth  
That God should accomplish His covenant word,  
When lo, in the manger lay God, poor and mild;  
Their waiting was over; their Savior, this Child.

Salvation accomplished, new Israel awaits  
His second great advent, the close of the age.  
No eye has distinguished, no ear has perceived  
What Christ is preparing for those who believe.

Dear God in the manger, now raised to Your throne,  
Be near to Your people whom You made Your own.  
When waiting is over, then Lord, hear our prayer,  
And take us to heaven to live with You there.

#### Organ Offertory & Steward *MINUTE*

#### Offering Prayer

#### Prayer of the Church

#### Lord's Prayer

**☩** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

### **348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns**

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,  
To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
When Christ, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death  
Despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes  
And we shall see His face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings!

## **✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠**

To God Alone Be Glory

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.  
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