



December 1, 2024

The First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. We hear again the first promise and prophesy made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Genesis 3:15

The Lord has kept His Word through the mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:9

Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist: “Our soul waits for the Lord;

He is our help and our shield.

For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.”

Psalms 33:20–22

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vv. 1-4)

♪ O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

~Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

♪ O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord’rest all things mightily;

To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. ~Rejoice...

♪ O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height

In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice...

♪ O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree, Free them from Satan’s tyranny

That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save, And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. ~Rejoice...

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 357-Text: Latin 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Cathjolicarum, Koln 1710; tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66; Tune: French 15th cent.; Setting: C. Winfred Douglas 1867-1944; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Confession and Absolution

As we begin the Advent season—a time of preparation for the coming of our Savior and a time of pondering God’s great love for us given in His Son—we also prepare ourselves to come before Him in humility and with honesty. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

The prophet Jeremiah proclaims, “The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made.... And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

We confess we have not rightly rejoiced in the promises that the Lord made and fulfilled and have instead found our fulfillment in the temporal things of our lives and this world. We have sought our own rightness instead of the Lord’s righteousness.

Forgive us.

Paul prays, “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, ... so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus.”

We confess our hearts are full of blame and unholiness. Our love has been misguided and our actions have been self-serving. We have not loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.

As Jesus speaks of the time of His return, He calls His followers to “straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

We confess we have not remained ready for Your return, nor realized time is short for the work You’ve called us to do. We have prioritized other matters instead of Your Word, relied on other things instead of Your presence, and in our thoughts, words, and actions have chosen to live our way instead of by Your commands. Forgive us.

A Time of Silence

The Lord is our righteousness. He alone establishes hearts blameless in holiness at His coming. Redemption draws near. We are declared righteous, blameless, and redeemed because of the living, dying, and rising of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

♪ O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:

~O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

♪ Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,...

♪ Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God In the highest: ~O come,...

♪ Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 379-Text & Tune: John F. Wade c.1711-86; tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80;
Setting: The Hymnal 1940; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14–16

¹⁴Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

⁹For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (vv. 1-4 & 8)

♪ Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

♪ Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh- Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

♪ Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.

♪ Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.

Please Stand

♪ Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 332-Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan 340-397; German version, Martin Luther 1483-1546;
tr. William M. Reynolds 1812-76 vv.1-2; tr. Lutheran Service Book 2006 vv. 3&6; tr. F. Samuel Janzow 1913-2001 vv.4-5&8;
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Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25–36

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will

see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads”

- ♪ Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
- ♪ A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
- ♪ How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
- ♪ Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav’n’s employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov’ reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
- ♪ Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 341-Text: Georg Weissel 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78;
Tune: August Lemke 1820-1923; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“The Only Promise Keeper”

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Offering and Musical Offering

Preface *Please Stand*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

Music: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", Hymn 366

♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, Almighty, Heavenly King.

Heaven and earth Your glory fills; Hosannas, loud we sing.

Blessed is He who comes to us in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the high'st, sing; Hosanna to our King!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

Music: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", Hymn 366

♪ O Lamb of God, You take away the world's sin, We pray.

O Lamb of God, You take away the world's sin, We pray.

O Lamb of God, You take away the world's sin, We pray.

Have mercy on us all, we pray And grant us peace, today.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"Jerusalem the Golden"

♪ Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest— The promise of salvation,
The place of peace and rest We know not, oh, we know not What joys await us there:
The radiancy of glory, The bliss beyond compare!

♪ Within those walls of Zion Sounds forth the joyful song, As saints join with the angels
And all the martyr throng. The Prince is ever with them; The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessed Shines bright with glorious sheen.

♪ Around the throne of David, The saints, from care released, Raise loud their songs of triumph
To celebrate the feast. They sing to Christ their leader, Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever Their gleaming robes of white.

♪ O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect! O sweet and blessed country
That faithful hearts expect! In mercy, Jesus, bring us To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 672-Text: Bernard of Cluny 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66;
Tune: Alexander C. Ewing 1830-95; Setting: Hymns Ancient and Modern 1861; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“From Heaven Above” (vv. 1, 12-15)

- ♪ “From heav’n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:
- ♪ And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.
- ♪ Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.
- ♪ My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- ♪ Glory to God in highest heav’n, Who unto us His Son has giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 358-Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546, tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78

Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig 1539, Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Postlude