



December 3, 2024

The First Wednesday 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.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!

Psalms 146:1-2, 5-6, 7b-8, 10

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*

"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"

♪ Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

♪ Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deep wailing, deeply wailing, Shall their true Messiah see.

♪ Those dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshipers.

With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars.

♪ Yea, amen, let all adore Thee, High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 336-Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Tune: Thomas Oliver 1725-99;
Setting: Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Confession and Absolution

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness.

Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

Amen.

A Time of Silence

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

Exodus 15:1–3

¹Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,

“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;

the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

²The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation;

this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Ephesians 5:15–21

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

- ♪ 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.
- ♪ God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
- ♪ For You are the Father’s Son Who in flesh the vict’ry won.
By Your mighty pow’r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.
- ♪ From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

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 1:67–80

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

- ⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

Proclamation of the Word *Please Be Seated*

“Song of Zechariah”

Luke 1:67–80

The Hymn

“Now Sing We, Now, Rejoice”

- ♪ Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice; He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies; Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!
- ♪ Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee. Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child; Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!
- ♪ Now through His Son doth shine The Father's grace divine. Death was reigning o'er us
Through sin and vanity Till He opened for us A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
- ♪ Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground? Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite, Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 386-Text: Latin and German 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell 1806-74; Tune: German;
Setting: Richard W. Hillert b.1923; ©1969 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Prayer of the Church

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.
Amen.

Numbers 6:24–26

Recessional Hymn

“The King Shall Come”

- ♪ The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious rose
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.
- ♪ Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see His face.
- ♪ The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 348 -Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925; Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813 ed. John Wyeth; Setting: Paul J.
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Postlude

Door Offering