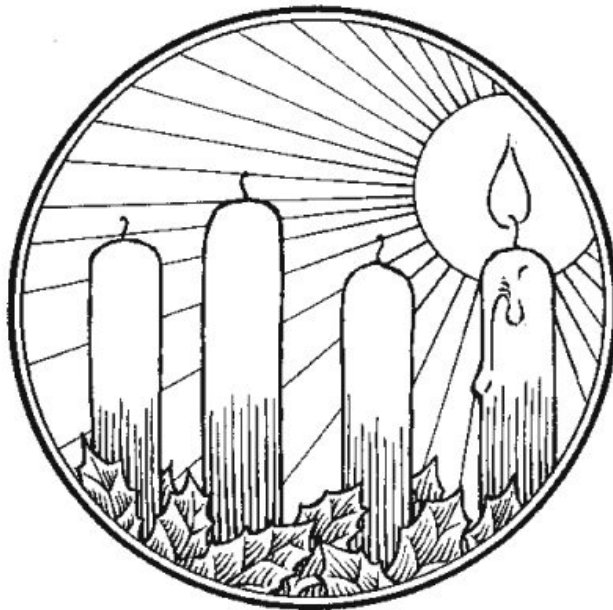


# FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

JESUS COMES SUDDENLY! WATCH!



Christ Lutheran Church  
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota  
November 29, 2020

## The Season of Advent

**Watch! Wait! Repent! Rejoice!** These are the rousing calls of the Advent season now upon us. In these weeks before Christmas we anticipate Jesus' first advent, or coming, as our Savior at Christmas. But we also wait in expectation for his second coming as Judge on the Last Day. Between these two "advents" of our Savior, Jesus comes to waiting hearts through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

*God bless your worship!*

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### OPENING HYMN

*The Advent of Our King*  
CW #1:1-4

1 The ad - vent of our King Our  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In -  
3 O Zi - on's Daugh - ter, rise To  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He

prayers must now em - ploy,  
car - nate deigns to be,  
meet your low - ly King,  
soon will come a - gain

And we must hymns of wel - come sing In  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To  
Nor let a faith - less heart de - spise The  
And his true mem - bers all u - nite With

strains of ho - ly joy.  
set his ser - vants free.  
peace he comes to bring.  
him in heav'n to reign.

## **INVOCATION**

M: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

M: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;

**C: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. (Ps. 98:1)**

M: Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before You!

**C: As fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make Your name known. (Is. 64:1-2)**

M: We light one candle in watchful anticipation of our Lord's return.

**C: Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. (Mk.13:33)**

*As the candle is lit, the congregation sings CW #23:1:*

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. *Refrain* Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

## THE WORD

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16,17, 64:1-8

*Isaiah prays that God would rip the heavens open and come down to set things right.*

But you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name. Why, LORD, do you make us wander from your ways and harden our hearts so we do not revere you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your inheritance. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! <sup>2</sup> As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before

you! <sup>3</sup> For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. <sup>4</sup> Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup> You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? <sup>6</sup> All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. <sup>7</sup> No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. <sup>8</sup> Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*By grace, God keeps us strong, faithful and expectant for his return.*

<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. <sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup> He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Revelation 22:20

*Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

Mark 13:32-37.

*Be on guard! Be alert! Jesus' coming is certain and sudden.*

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. <sup>35</sup> “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you O Christ!

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Savior of the Nations, Come*  
CW #2



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the  
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the  
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -  
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
Spir - it of our God Was the Word of  
vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the  
cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing  
God the Son, our King, Praise to God the



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.  
God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!  
death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!  
Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

**THE SERMON** Isaiah 63:16,17, 64:1-8

*Pastor Wessel*

**O LORD, Come Down!**  
**Come down in your might!**  
**Come down in your mercy!**

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## OFFERING

*The Offering will be received in back.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls and in You we put our trust. Do not let us be ashamed of our hope but come quickly. Sustain us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may have joy at the advent of Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate Lord, look in mercy on all who are in any danger, trouble, sickness or need. Hear our prayers for the sick and suffering [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Give health to our world and bring the pandemic to an end. Comfort all who mourn, and sustain them with a confident hope in the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Father, You have given all judgment to Your Son, whose words will not pass away. Grant that Your people may hold fast to Your Word fervently. Sustain us in repentance and saving faith, united in a true confession and always awake, watching for Your return. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

## HYMN

*O Savior, Rend, the Heavens*  
CW #22



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; Come down, come  
2 O Morn - ing Star, O ra - diant Dawn, When will we  
3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; Grim death looms  
4 There shall we all our prais - es bring And sing to



down with might - y stride; Un - lock the gates, the doors break  
sing your morn - ing song? Come, Son of God! With - out your  
fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y  
you, our Sav - ior - King; There shall we laud you and a -



down; Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
light We grope in dread and gloom of night.  
hand From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.  
dore For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

## CLOSING PRAYER

M: Almighty God, Judge and King, the whole creation waits for your coming. Come, Lord, Jesus, with your grace and fill our lives with your presence. Use all of our time for your gracious purpose; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: Amen.

## BLESSING

M: 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.

C: Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes*  
CW #9:1,5

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

1 Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex-  
pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised  
light a - rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?

Teach us in watchfulness and prayer  
To wait for your appointed hour,  
And fit us by your grace to share,  
The triumphs of your conqu'ring power.

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