

# THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 1, 2024

*“The Lord is Our Righteousness”*

## THE WELCOME

### THE OPENING HYMN #331 *“The Advent of Our King”*



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spite The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

**5 Before the dawning day**  
**Let sin's dark deeds be gone,**  
**The sinful self be put away,**  
**The new self now put on.**

**△ 6 All glory to the Son,**  
**Who comes to set us free,**  
**With Father, Spirit, ever one**  
**Through all eternity.**

## THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**C: Listen to my cry for mercy.** (*Psalm 86:6*)

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: We confess that, at times, we consider our good intentions have somehow earned Your forgiveness, and we have not relied solely on Your grace given in Christ Jesus—the very Source of righteousness. We confess that we have pursued our own interests. We have not properly looked out for the interest of others by also using our resources to meet our neighbors' needs. We confess that we harbor our secret faults, believing that we may escape Your judgment or that we are unworthy of receiving Your mercy. We have sinned against You by our thoughts, words, and actions. Heavenly Father, have mercy on us for the sake of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your 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.

**C: Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

P: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (*John 8:12*)

**C: We light this candle anticipating the coming light of Christ.**

P: "I will make You a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (*Isaiah 49:6*)

**C: Come, Lord Jesus, our Light and Life.**

P: Until that day, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*(The first Advent candle is lighted)*

## **THE HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (#357 v.1)**

**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!**

## **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

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.**

## **THE OLD TESTAMENT READING** Jeremiah 33:14-16 (ESV)

"Behold, 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. In 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. In 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.'"

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE PSALM OF THE DAY** Psalm 25:1-10 (ESV)

P: To You, O LORD,

**C: I lift up my soul.**

P: O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;

**C: let not my enemies exult over me.**

P: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;

**C: they shall be ashamed who act treacherously without cause.**

P: Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.

**C: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.**

P: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

**C: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;**

P: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

**C: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

P: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.

**C: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

**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.**

**THE EPISTLE** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (ESV)

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

**THE VERSE** “*Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates!*” (#341 v. 1)

**Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.**

**The King of kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here.**

**He brings salvation down to earth. Greet Him with shouts of holy mirth.**

**Our highest praise we bring, Our God, Creator, King.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 21:25-36 (ESV)

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

**C: (spoken) Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said] “And 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, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” And He told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. 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. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But 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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

## THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY #332 "Savior of the Nations, Come"



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 **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.**

6 **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.**

7 **From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.**

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

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*(please be seated)*

**THE SERMON** *“The Lord is Our Righteousness”* Text: Jeremiah 23:14-16

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS** (pages 192-193 in the hymnal)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.**

*(please stand)*

**THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Let us pray to the Lord,” “Lord, have mercy.”)*

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

**P:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *(1 Corinthians 11:26)*

**C:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *(Revelation 22:20)*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(printed inside the back cover of the hymnal)*

**THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## THE DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS

### #621 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and  
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard  
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,  
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,  
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing  
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -  
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the  
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to  
As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.  
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

### #563 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty  
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -  
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the  
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in  
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through  
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'  
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.  
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.  
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.  
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise  
 To claim my mansion in the skies,  
 This then shall be my only plea:  
 Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,  
 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
 For me, and all Thy hands have made,  
 An everlasting ransom paid.

#570 "Just as I Am, without One Plea"



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 Because Thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## #632 "O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt  
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -  
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.  
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

*(please stand)*

### THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

### THE THANKSGIVING

P: Hear the prayer of Your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised You here may glorify You in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of Your Son may long for His coming again, and that all who have received in His true body and blood the pledge of Your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### THE 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.

*(please be seated)*

### THE ANNOUNCEMENTS