



The First Sunday in the Season of Advent

Saturday at 6:30 PM
Sunday at 7:45 AM and 10:15 AM

Advent Gathering Rite 2021

The pastor speaks words in regular print.
The congregation responds with words in bold print.
Italicized words are sung. Join in as comfortable.

Invocation

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

*Creator of the Stars at night,
Your peoples' everlasting light
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.*

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

*In sorrow that the ancient curse
Should doom to death the universe,
You came to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.*

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray; God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

*When earth drew on to darkest night,
You came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a king, but as a child
Of Mary, virgin mother mild.*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called 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.

*At Your great Name, majestic now,
All kneel must bend, all hearts must bow;
All things on earth with one accord
Join those in heav'n to call You Lord.*

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming near. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.

We hear his call to watch.

We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

When Jesus Christ came into our world, he hid His glory and power. He humbled Himself so that sinners would be drawn to Him rather than driven away in fear.

One blue Advent candle is lit as we sing the final stanza of “Creator of the Stars at Night.”

*To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.*

The Lord be with You
And also with you

Prayer of the Day

We 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.

Amen.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14–16

¹⁴ “ ‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.

¹⁵ “ ‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.’

PSALM OF THE DAY:

Psalm 25 (p74)

Refrain Tune: Marty Haugen. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Refrain: *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.*

*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;**
in you I trust, O my God.

*Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,**
for they are from of old.

*Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;**
according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.

Refrain: *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.*

*Turn to me and be gracious to me,**
for I am lonely and afflicted.

*Look upon my affliction and my distress**
and take away all my sins.

Guard my life and rescue me,
for I take refuge in you.*

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.*

Refrain: *To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.*

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Revelation 22:20

M: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

C: (sung) *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 21:25–36

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² “I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³⁴ “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: (sung) *Praise be to You, O Christ!*

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come (CW #2)

Text: Ambrose, 340-97, abr.;

German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546, abr.;

tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812-76, alt.

*1 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.*

*2 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.*

***3 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned, Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!***

***4 From the Father's throne he came And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell-High the song of triumph swell!***

***5 Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.***

SERMON

after the sermon, please stand

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.

please be seated

THE GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made (1 Cor. 16:2).

The offering plates will be passed through the congregation. After collection, the ushers will take the offering plates to the front to present them at the altar of God. As the plates come forward, please stand and sing our offering hymn.

OFFERING HYMN

Come O Long Expected Jesus (CW#6)

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.

*1 Come, O long-expected Jesus, Born to set your people free;
From our sins and fears release us By your death on Calvary.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope to all the earth impart,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

*2 Born your people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, Now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all-sufficient merit Raise us to your glorious throne.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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 OF THE DAY

Hosanna to the Coming Lord (CW #21)

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, abr., alt.

*1 Hosanna to the coming Lord!
Hosanna to the incarnate Word!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King
Let earth, let heav'n hosanna sing.*

2 *O Savior, with protecting care
Abide in this your house of prayer,
Where we your parting promise claim,
Assembled in your sacred name.*

3 *O Advent King, our sins forgive;
Come in our lives and hearts to live,
And let our humble souls become
A temple worthy of your name.*

4 *Then in the last and dreadful day,
When earth and heav'n shall melt away,
Your flock, redeemed from sinful stain,
Shall swell the sound of praise again.*

PRAYER

M: ... through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) *A-men.*

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: (sung) *Amen. Amen. A-men.*

HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes (CW#12)

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51, abr., alt.

1 *Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.*

*2 He comes the captives to release,
In Satan's prison held.
The gates of brass before him burst;
The iron fetters yield.*

*3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.*

*4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.*