

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

When God Hides
November 28 & 29, 2020

AS WE GATHER

We begin a new Church Year boldly begging for the advent of our risen Lord Jesus, His final coming to rescue and save us. Our boldness, however, is tempered with the humility of faith that says, “Nevertheless, Thy will be done.” For we know and even expect that His answer to our prayer will be hidden in mystery. It may be the mystery of our continued cry for mercy or the surprise of His final advent as victorious Lord and Judge of all. We know what followed our Lord’s humble entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week of His passion, namely, the mystery and surprise that His victory and the glory of God should be displayed for all the world on a cross. So today we pray with bold humility and confidence, for His coming and deliverance will always have a note of surprise—blessed surprise.

WELCOME

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”
Isaiah 9:2

STEWARDSHIP STORY

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Stanzas 1-4

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: 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. **Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

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.

Refrain

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As we begin a new Church Year, let us put behind us everything in the past that would disqualify us from a new life, and remembering our Baptism, we boldly petition our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking for our entry into His presence and His plan and future for us, saying, stir up your power, O Lord, and come,

People: that by your protection we may be rescued from our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance.

Pastor: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

People: I do confess.

Pastor: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” Do you also repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

People: I do repent.

Pastor: As you believe, even so may it be to you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: Let your light scatter the darkness

People: and illumine Your Church.

HYMN

“We Light the Advent Candle”

We light the Advent candle And wait for Christ to come.

With hope, we trust the promise That He will bring us home.

Our hope is in our Savior Who wins for us God’s favor.

We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!

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SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 64:1–9* (Rend the heavens and come down)

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:3–9* (Thanksgiving)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S SONG "In a Little Stable" - E.W. Schroeter

In a little stable far across the sea
Was a little baby just like you and me.

Not a bed or cradle, not a pillow deep.
But a lowly manger was His place to sleep.

Shepherds stood around Him, angels watched with care,
For this babe was Jesus, lying, smiling there.

Oh, I love this Jesus, who was little then,
For I know He loves me, little though I am.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 11:1–10* (The triumphal entry)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #332 “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.

Musical Interlude

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

SERMON “Rend the Heavens ...and Come” Isaiah 64:1-9

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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 Offering plates will be placed in the narthex and by the elevator room for gathering at the end of the service.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Brief silence

Pastor: To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls and in you we put our trust. Do not let us be discouraged by these days, but grant us look to you in hope and come quickly. Sustain us by your Holy Spirit, that we may have joy even as we await the second advent of Christ, our Savior. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, enrich your saints in every way as we enter another Church Year. Encourage the preachers of your Word and all who hear, that the testimony about Christ may be confirmed again among us. Give boldness and faithfulness to Matthew, our Synod president; John, our district president; Hal, our circuit visitor; Chuck and Rachel, our Together in Mission partners, and all pastors and servants of Christ. As you have called us into the fellowship of your Son, so sustain us as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in your fear, and that children would honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life, and that those whose families struggle would find fellowship and acceptance in Christ’s church. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, be with the governing authorities and enable them to preserve peace and order in our nation. Hear our prayers for Donald, our president; Tony, our governor; our military and police; and other civil servants as well as all newly elected officials. Increase a spirit of unity and cooperation among the people of our land and the nations of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, behold in mercy all who are in any danger, trouble, sickness or need. Hear our prayers for the sick and suffering especially Rolland, John, Arlene, Margie, Don, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, June, Jerry, Cindy, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Eternal Lord, as your Son once entered humbly into Jerusalem to the cries of “Hosanna,” so grant us faith to see that our Savior answers those cries of salvation in the sacrament of His body and blood, given and shed for us. Bless us by your Spirit with repentance and faith as we partake of His holy supper for forgiveness of sins, life, and eternal salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION *Wait for the usher to direct you to come forward. Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.*

HYMN #334

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.

Your Zion strews before You Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I too will adore You With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.

I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.

Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.

He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.

HYMN #348

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

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!

HYMN #343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet every nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Stanzas 5-7

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Director of Parish Music

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Pastor Noah Kegley

Marc Stefanic, Cassy Barry

Michelle Prince



Worship with us this Advent season

December 2, 9 & 16, 2020

At 10:00am & 6:00pm