

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 28, 2021



✘ PREPARATION ✘

HYMN "We are God's People"

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Jeremiah 33:14–15; Luke 21:27, 33, adapt.*

Pastor: The LORD says, "I will fulfill the promise I made to the houses of Israel and Judah."

People: **We thank You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The LORD says, "My righteous Branch will cause justice and righteousness to spring up."

People: **We adore You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The LORD says, "You will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

People: **We praise You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The LORD says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."

People: **We worship You, O Lord!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

One Advent candle is lit as we sing:

SONG: *“We Light the Advent Candle” see insert*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.

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

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.
People: **Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?**

Pastor: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.
People: **Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,**

Pastor: who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted.
People: **For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

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.

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Shine Jesus Shine”

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Ancient of Days, bring to all our days the hope and peace won for us by Jesus on Good Friday and Easter Sunday,
People: **that we may live by Your mercy until that day when Christ comes again to judge the living and the dead, Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 33:14–16*

(The prophet Jeremiah foresees a day when God would come to bring righteousness to His people.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 3:9–13*

(Paul reminds us that God can cause us to abound in love for one another as we await the coming of the Lord.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Psalm 24:7*

Pastor: Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates!

People: **And be lifted up, O ancient doors,**

Pastor: that the King of glory may come in.

People: **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 21:25–36*

(The kingdom of God is near.)

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵ "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, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place,

straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Watch Yourselves

³⁴ “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. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ 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.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Praise and Thanksgiving” #789

SERMON “Preparing” Pastor Pete

CREED *Apostles’ Creed*

People: **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 & PRAYER

(Members and Visitors: We would appreciate it if you would please take this time to fill out and pass the “Who’s In The Pew” folders, located at the center aisle end of each pew.)

Leader: Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, symbols of your gracious love.

People: **Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our brother and Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - Response

Pastor: We pray,

People: **hear us, coming Lord.**

Pastor: We sing our Lord’s Prayer:

**Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

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

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, . . . 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.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart” #806

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Worship Leaders: Pastor Dave and Pastor Pete

Music Leader: Daniel M. Meyers

Organist: Sharilyn Rotta

<http://www.stjohnslutheranchurch.org>

© 941096

Holy Communion is shared on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month.