

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

A New Church Year

November 29, 2020



AS WE GATHER

The Church Year begins by taking us to the scene of our Lord's final entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week. Yes, Christmas is at hand. Surely the preparations for the celebration of His incarnation, His earthly birth of the Virgin Mary, are already well under way. But wait a moment. We enter this new year already knowing why He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit for us and for our salvation, which is only by way of His passion, death, and resurrection. We begin by continuing to "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" on the Last Day (1 Corinthians 1:7), sustained by Him now in the forgiveness of our sins, guiltless and ready. In readiness, we boldly pray that our Lord comes to rescue and save us.

✕ PREPARATION ✕

HYMN "Glory and Praise to Our God"

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:8; John 3:16; Matthew 5:16*

Leader: 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 the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.**

Leader: What are those threatening perils? I now ask you before God, who searches the heart, do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?
People: **I do confess.**

Leader: So you should confess as Holy Scripture says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

People: Do you also repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?
I do repent.

Leader: So you should repent as did King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

People: I do believe.

Leader: So you should believe as Holy Scripture declares, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

People: I do promise.

Leader: So you should promise for Christ the Lord says, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

People: I do believe.

Leader: 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.

Leader: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

People: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

Leader: 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!**

✘ WORD ✘

HYMN OF PRAISE “**Brothers and Sisters in Christ**”

SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: 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.**

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

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

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

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “He Is Faithful”

SERMON “Rich in the Between Times” Pastor James Schroeder

CREED *Apostles’ Creed* *found in back of hymnal*

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

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

Almighty God, our Father, we give You thanks that You bring us once again into a new Church Year whereby we confess and proclaim Your great love for the world in the sending of Your only-begotten Son as the Child of the Virgin Mary, the Lamb proclaimed by John the Baptist, the teacher of the holy apostles, the sacrifice for the sins of the world on the cross, and the risen Savior of all, who will come again in glory on the Last Day. Lord, keep us in this confession and faith, and bless its proclamation throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Supply Your whole Church on earth with faithful Leaders and laborers who will continually feed and lead Your people, rightly proclaiming Your Word, administering Your Holy Sacraments, and caring for all in their charge. Guard and bless our Synod President and our District President. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: That we may live in peace and safety, we ask You to continually bless those in the authority of government, the President and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Grant that they rule according to Your good pleasure by Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Comfort, O Lord, all who are in trouble, danger, or illness, [*especially* . . .]. Grant healing, peace, and courage for all bearing their crosses to Your praise and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Individual petitions may be added here.

Leader: As Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, came down to us at Christmas and now comes to us by Your Spirit in Your Word, we pray for His final coming to deliver us all in the great day of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: We sing our Lord's Prayer:

"Lord's Prayer" *HFG* 440

**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

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

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Leader: 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.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN "Give Thanks"