



1st Sunday in Advent

Your King Comes

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

November 29, 2020

SERVICE NOTES FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Our King, Jesus, is coming. He first came with palms and the singing and shouting of the crowd into Jerusalem. He comes as a triumphant king, yet he is riding on to die. Through the waving palms and the crowded street we see the true willingness of our Lord to suffer in our place. Our King, Jesus, is coming. But now we wait for him to come on the clouds. We cling to God's gracious love in Christ as we prepare and wait for the Savior's return.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The traditional Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity, it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree also has a long history of religious use, and no doubt the idea of an Advent Wreath was inspired by the fir tree. It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath. In modern use, including our own chancel, Advent wreaths have been adapted, often as a modern form of liturgical art. Eventually, the use of the Advent Wreath became widespread and moved from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world

ABOUT THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four week period before Christmas that the Church uses to remember the "coming" of the Christ. We are celebrating that he came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and that he will come again at the end of time as King of kings and Lord of lords. It is worth observing that it is a peculiar tradition of the church to begin a new year at the time of Advent—at the end of November or early December. This differs from all other accounts of how we measure time whatsoever. The reason for this is because the Church is counter-cultural. She does not number her days or measure her seasons so much by the motion of the sun as by the course of our Savior's life, beginning and counting her year with Him at the center. So, as the days become darker, and

the night becomes longer, the true Sun of Righteousness begins to rise upon the world to enlighten those who sit in spiritual darkness.

The Service of the Word and Sacrament

The high and holy worship of God is faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith is created and sustained by God's service to us (the German, "Gottesdienst," "God/Divine Service). In the Divine Service, the Lord comes to us in His Word and Sacrament to bless and enliven us with His gifts. The Service is not something we do for God, but His service to us received in faith. The liturgy is God's work. He gives, we receive.



HYMN

22 - O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide!



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; Come down, come
2 O Morn - ing Star, O ra - dant Dawn, When will we
3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; Grim death looms
4 There shall we all our prais - es bring And sing to



down with might - y stride; Un - lock the gates, the doors break
sing your morn - ing song? Come, Son of God! With - out your
fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y
you, our Sav - ior - King; There shall we laud you and a -



down; Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
light We grope in dread and gloom of night.
hand From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
dore For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635, abr.; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.
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Tune: O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF (LM) *Rheinfelssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch*,
Augsburg, 1666.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: If we say we have fellowship with God while we walk in darkness,

C: we lie and do not practice the truth.

M: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

C: we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6,7)

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Silence for meditation on God's Word and for self-examination as you consider your thoughts, words, and actions according to the Ten Commandments.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: Amen

From God's Word we know that wherever God puts His name, there He is to bless. In the Old Testament the temple was the place where God graciously caused His name to be present (1 Kings 8:27-30).

God has put His name—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—on us in Holy Baptism. The Divine Service begins with the Invocation, the words spoken over us at our baptisms. Every Divine Service is for the hallowing of the Lord's name, which the Small Catechism reminds us is done "when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it" (Matthew 28:18-20).

The shorter repeated expressions in the liturgy are excellent ways for young children to participate in the worship service. Help children watch for and join in phrases like, "Lord, have mercy," "Amen," and "Alleluia."

LORD, HAVE MERCY - Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

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

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

M: We hear his call to watch.

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

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

ADVENT HYMN

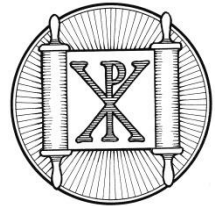
Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | CW 23

During the hymn, one Advent candle is lit.

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

The Service of the Word

Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 64:1–9

Isaiah jumps between terror and comfort. Though we have sinned we can call God our Father.

64 If only you would tear the heavens open
and come down,
so that mountains would quake at your presence—
²just as fire kindles brushwood,
and fire boils water—
to make your name known to your enemies,
so that nations would tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome works
that we did not expect,
you came down,
and the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ancient times no one has heard,
no one has listened to,
no eye has seen any God except you
who acts on behalf of the one who waits for him.
⁵You welcome the one who joyfully does what is right;
they remember you in your ways.
But we have sinned, and you were angry.
How can we be saved if we remain in our sins?^[a]
⁶All of us have become like something unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like a polluted^[b] garment;
all of us wither like a leaf,
and our iniquities carry us away like the wind.
⁷No one calls on your name,
striving to take hold of you.
For you have hidden your face from us
and made us melt because of^{[c][d]} our iniquity.
⁸Yet LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we all are the work of your hands.
⁹LORD, do not be terribly angry
or remember our iniquity forever.
Please look—all of us are your people!

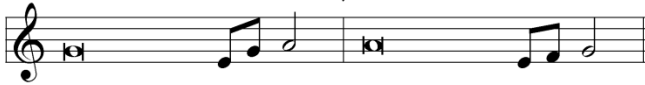
PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 24

Refrain



Psalm tone



the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.
Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty – he is the king of glory.
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

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

God promises to keep us safe until the end.

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that you were enriched in him in every way, in all speech and all knowledge. ⁶ In this way, the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you, ⁷ so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; you were called by him into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Revelation 22:20

Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL

Mark 11:1–10

Jesus advent into Jerusalem was in humility. When he comes again it will be in glory.

³³ “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner, who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it to tenant farmers and went away. ³⁴ When the time came to harvest fruit, he sent his servants to

the farmers to collect his fruit. ³⁵The farmers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Again, he sent other servants, more than the first group, and they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸“But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those farmers?”

⁴¹“He will completely destroy those terrible men,” they told him, “and lease his vineyard to other farmers who will give him his fruit at the harvest.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.^[a]**

**This is what the Lord has done
and it is wonderful in our eyes?^[b]**

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruit.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY

2 - Savior of the nations, come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -
 5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 Spir - it of our God Was the Word
 vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the
 cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing
 God the Son, our King, Praise to God the



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
 God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
 death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!
 Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Ambrose, 340–97, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76, alt.
 Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

SERMON

Mark 11:1-10

Having heard the Word of God, we confess our faith in His name. The creed is our saying back to God what He has first said to us. In the Creed we acclaim the truth of the triune God and His work of salvation accomplished for us in His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**

*Dt. 6:4
 2 Cor. 6:18
 Is. 51:13
 Col. 1:16
 1 Cor 8:6
 Jn. 3:16
 Heb. 1:2,5
 Jn. 1*

*The Nicene Creed
 is the great
 Confession of the
 Christian faith
 professed by
 all Christians.
 The Creed
 originated at the
 First Council of
 Nicaea (c. AD.
 325)*

begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.	<i>Jn. 10:30</i>	
Through him all things were made.	<i>Jn. 1:3</i>	
For us and for our salvation,	<i>1 Th. 5:9</i>	
he came down from heaven,	<i>Jn. 6:38</i>	
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,	<i>Lk. 1:35</i>	
and became fully human.	<i>Gal. 4:4</i>	
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.	<i>Mk. 15:15</i>	
He suffered death and was buried.	<i>1 Cor. 15:3-4a</i>	
On the third day he rose again in accordance		
with the Scriptures.	<i>1 Cor. 15:4b</i>	
He ascended into heaven	<i>Ac. 2:33-34</i>	
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.	<i>Heb. 1:13</i>	
He will come again in glory	<i>Mt. 25:31</i>	
to judge the living and the dead,	<i>2 Tim. 4:1</i>	
and his kingdom will have no end.	<i>Lk. 1:33</i>	
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,	<i>Job 33:4</i>	
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,	<i>Jn. 15:26</i>	
who in unity with the Father and the Son	<i>Jn. 4:24</i>	
is worshiped and glorified,		
who has spoken through the prophets.	<i>2 Pet. 1:25</i>	
We believe in one holy Christian	<i>Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20</i>	
and apostolic Church.		
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.	<i>Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38</i>	
We look for the resurrection of the dead	<i>1 Cor. 15:21-22</i>	
and the life of the world to come. Amen.	<i>Rev. 22</i>	

*The Creed itself
was crafted as a
confession of
Scripture in
opposition to the
Arian heresy,
which denied
that the Lord
Jesus and the
Holy Spirit are
God.*

OFFERING

In response to God's love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries You repeated and affirmed Your promise to send the Offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through Your prophets of old, You continually directed the eyes of Your people to the advent of their Savior.
- C: We praise You, O Lord, for keeping Your promise and sending Your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**
- M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use Your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.
- C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is near."**
- M: You sent Your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this Good News be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas spare us from the distractions, stress and frenzy of the season.
- C: Fill our hearts with the true Christmas message of peace and music of Your grace.**
- M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger, but also to the skies where we will see Your Son coming again, not as a lowly Child but as the Lord of lords.
- C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**
- Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*
- M: Hear us Lord, as we bring your our private petitions.
- Silent prayer.*
- M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in Your grace, in Your power, and in Your glory.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

- 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.

THE BLESSING

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: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

4 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

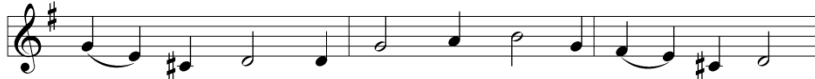
4 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -
 2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make
 5 Re - deem - er, come! I op - en wide My



hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
 char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is
 Christ the rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and
 it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for
 heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -
 The end of all our woe he brings; There -
 The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who
 So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -



fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther
 fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior
 comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it
 new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be
 til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 praise For word and deed and grace!
 fame We of - fer to your name.



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