

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20, 2020



+ PREPARATION +

HYMN ~ 332 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

- 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 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.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all / From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, / His heroic course began.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 From the manger newborn light / Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; / In this light faith now abides.
- 8 Glory to the Father sing, / Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be / Now and through eternity.

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INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: That our eyes and our ears may be open to receive the mystery of God's love, let us first empty ourselves of everything that has closed our hearts to God, confessing our sin and need of forgiveness and life.

People: At the Lord's own invitation and command, I confess all my sins to God, the very thoughts, words, and deeds with which I have offended Him and hurt my neighbor. I come now in the sincere hope and faith of the forgiveness of God made known to the whole world in the mystery of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed His own flesh and blood for me. Remove my sin and guilt for His sake, and restore a right spirit within me. Amen.

Pastor: 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!***

***We light the Advent candle And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!***

***We light the Advent candle And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message— A blessing to impart.
Our joy is never ending; The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!***

***We light the Advent candle And share the wondrous Word.
With love, we tell of Jesus Till all around have heard.
God's love is for each nation Throughout His whole creation.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!***

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INTROIT ~ *Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a,b*

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.
The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

**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.**

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Strengthen Your gift of faith in us, and keep us by Your power to be Your own; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING ~ 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 89:1-5; antiphon: v.8

Pastor: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

People: **You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”**

Pastor: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

People: **Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said: “I have granted help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him, so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.**

Pastor: The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him.

People: **I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted.**

Pastor: I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’

People: **And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him.**

People: I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens.

CHOIR ENSEMBLE ~ *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

EPISTLE ~ *Romans 16:25-27*

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL ~ *Luke 1:26-38*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ *356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, / With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, / Most highly favored lady."
Gloria!
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, / All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, / Most highly favored lady."
Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; / "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." / Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born / In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: / "Most highly favored lady."
Gloria!

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SERMON ~ “A Servant’s Advent” Luke 1:26-38

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY ~ 956 Create in Me

- 1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

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OFFERING (*Online giving is available on the website.*)

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have made known to all nations Your own glory, that in Your Son is fulfilled the hope of all mankind of forgiveness and eternal life with You. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HYMN ~ 941 We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

- 1 We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord, / The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.
To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing, / The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:
“O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; / Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!”

2 The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise; / The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng, / Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this
song:

“O all-majestic Father, Your true and only Son, / And Holy Spirit, Comforter—forever Three in One!”

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You once proclaimed Your saving promise through the prophets, and by the apostles and evangelists You published the good news of Your saving promise fulfilled in the birth and life, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that by Your Word our eyes, ears, and hearts be filled and strengthened with sure faith, that being instructed in the doctrine of the blessed prophets, apostles, and evangelists we faithfully eat the body and drink of the blood of our Lord Jesus and declare His salvation to all the world.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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.

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

HYMN ~ 941 *We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God*

3 You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son, / Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev’ryone:
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin’s womb, / Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve— / You opened heaven’s kingdom to all who would believe.

4 You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God’s right hand, / Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.
We know that You will come as our Judge that final day, / So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we
pray;

May we with saints be numbered where praises never end, / In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

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DISTRIBUTION *in Sanctuary*

HYMN ~ 937 *Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace*

- 1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace, / Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, / This child so long foretold.
- 2 This is the Savior of the world, / The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst, / The joy of Israel.
- 3 With saints of old, with saints to come, / To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest / Be honor, love, and praise.

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

HYMN TO DEPART ~ 357 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain | 4 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 |
| ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel! | 5 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 |
| 2 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 | 6 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 |
| 3 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 | 7 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 |

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