

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

*Congregational Responses in Bold Print*

All Creation Sings, 2020 - Holy Communion, Setting 12

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn* SEDIO

**LIGHTING OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> ADVENT CANDLE** *Jesus, the Light of the World* RANEY

**Choir sings:** End our darkness, end our night. Jesus, the light of the world.  
Bring to earth God’s heavenly light, Jesus the light of the world.

**Litany:** *Advent is a time to wait.*

**We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

*Advent is a time to wait for freedom from captivity.*

**We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

*Advent is a time to wait for comfort in our sorrow.*

**We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

*Advent is a time to wait for power in our weakness.*

**We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

*Advent is a time to wait for the end of darkness.*

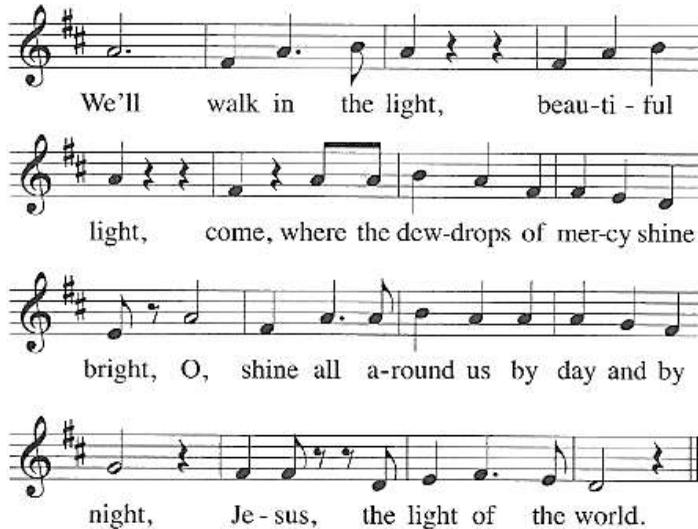
**We wait in hope for the dawning light.**

**Candle Lighting:** This morning we light the **first candle**. This candle reminds us that our hope is in Christ, and that God sent Jesus to be the Light of the World. As we begin the journey of Advent, may we learn to wait patiently, with hope and confidence, that God’s light will one day illuminate our darkened world.

**Prayer:** *God in heaven, as we begin this season of Advent, we pray that you will teach us to wait with patience, endurance, and trust. Remind us of your everlasting presence. Fill us with the hope of the future and love for humanity. Bathe us in your eternal, loving light. Amen.*

**Choir Sings:** Jesus, the light of the world.

## Congregation sings (twice)



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti - ful  
light, come, where the dew-drops of mer-cy shine  
bright, O, shine all a-round us by day and by  
night, Je - sus, the light of the world.

**Choir concludes:** O, Jesus, the light of the world. Light of the world.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. Amen.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Have mercy, O God, against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

*As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. Blessed be God forever.*

**GATHERING SONG #436 *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* WACHET AUF**

## GREETING

*From the one who is and who was and who is to come, grace, mercy and peace be with you all. And also with you.*

## KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.  
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray together. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

*In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The LORD is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SENIOR CHOIR:** *O Loving Father of the Stars* JOSEPH MARTIN

### SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.*      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL      Luke 21: 25-36**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**      *Pastor Robert Cochran*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      #257      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*      VENI, EMMANUEL  
(Stanzas 1-4 ONLY)

**APOSTLES' CREED**

*With voices united, let us confess our faith*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS**

*In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. (A brief silence.)*

*... Hear us, O God.      **Your mercy is great.***

*God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.***

**MEAL**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE**

*The peace of Christ be with you always.      **And also with you.***

**GREAT THANKSGIVING: DIALOGUE**

*The Lord be with you. **And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.***

*Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.*

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
Amen*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray. Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.*

## SENDING

## BLESSING

*The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. Amen.*

## SENDING HYMN ACS #949 *Keep Your Lights Trimmed and Burning* KEEP YOUR LAMPS

## BLESSING

*Go in peace. Christ is near.. Thanks be to God.*



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the  
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



*Refrain*  
Chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil - dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

## POSTLUDE *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* BEHNKE

**Worship ends \* service begins**