

**Welcome and Blessings!** We prepare our hearts to remember Christ’s coming among us and offer thanks for celebrating this time together. We praise our good and gracious God for your presence as we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit in this season. Come Emmanuel.



**Introduction to 2nd Sunday in Advent**

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord’s coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!” We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

**Prelude**

**Gathering**

**\* Confession and Forgiveness**

**P** Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Loving and forgiving God...

**C** we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

**P** People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, + comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**\*Greeting**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

**Lighting of Advent Candles**

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days for the preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose days draw near.



**C** Amen.

**Two candles are lit as we sing. (The second candle is called the Bethlehem candle or sometimes the Peace Candle.)**

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Prayer of the Day

P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

## Word

### First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

(See Celebrate)

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

>> Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

(See Celebrate)

### Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

(See Celebrate)

Lector: A reading from Second Peter

>> Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### \*Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

(See Celebrate)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Spoken*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Spoken*

## Sermon

**Beginning... to see**

### \* Hymn of the Day

*Be Thou My Vision*

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent; verses: Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

### \* Nicene Creed

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### \*Prayers of Intercession

(See Celebrate)

### \*Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

**(We open Zoom so you may offer the "peace.")**

## Offering

## Meal

### Offering

#### \*Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. Merciful Father

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

#### \*The Great Thanksgiving

*Spoken*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### \*The Preface

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### *\*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

*Music Page 89*

C ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

**The bread and drink (communion) will be consumed after the singing of “Lamb of God” on p. 10.**

#### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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.

P Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P By your Holy Spirit may this bread and wine be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your name forever.

Through Christ... with Christ... in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

## \*Lord's Prayer

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

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**

Communion Canticle: **"Lamb of God"**

Music Page 92

C **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## The Banquet

**We now partake of communion by eating and drinking the elements.**

*(We invite everyone who believes in the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and who is eligible to receive the Sacrament in their own congregation to commune with us today.)*

## \*Table Blessing

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

C **Amen**

## \*Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray. God for whom we wait...

C: **in this meal, you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## Sending

### \*Blessing

P 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.

In the name of the Father † and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

### \* Sending Hymn

### All Earth Is Hopeful

### WOV #629

1 **All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**

2 **People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; she con-  
- ceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**

3 **Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

4 **We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Spanish text © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## \*Announcements and sharing time

### \*Dismissal

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20381. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted from With One Voice Liturgies: Electronic Edition copyright ©1997. Used by permission.