

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30 & December 1, 2024

### INTRODUCTION

*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.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,

who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

**\* GREETING**

**P** Christ has called us to this place,  
gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

**C** **We are followers of Christ  
who seek to hear the Word,  
live the Word,  
and share the Word.**

**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.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: *Prophecy***

**P** O faithful and loving God,  
we praise you for your tender compassion  
and give thanks for your steadfast love for us and all creation.  
Bless us who see the light of this wreath,  
that our faith may be strengthened to see  
your advent among us,  
and live toward the completion of all things in you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"**

**ELW #240**



1 Light one can-dle 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.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE. Yiddish folk tune

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**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

5:30 Praise Team

8:30 Edie Goodwin

11:00 Chancel Choir

### 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."

### 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.

### \* GOSPEL VERSE

*Refrain*



Re-joyce! Re - joice!



Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL. French processional, 15th cent.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

C **Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

**\* 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

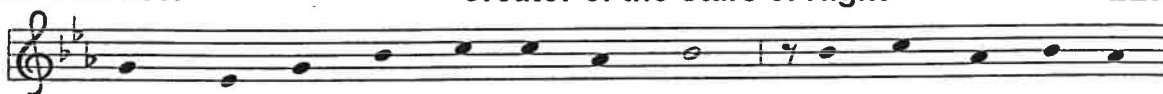
C Thanks be to God!

SERMON Art Hill

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Creator of the Stars of Night"**

**ELW #245**



1	Cre - a - tor	of the stars of	night,	your peo - ple's	ev - er -
2	When this old	world drew on toward	night,	you came; but not in	
3	At your great	name, O Je - sus,	now	all knees must bend, all	
4	Come in your	ho - ly might, we	pray,	re - deem us for e -	
5	To God the	Fa - ther, God the	Son,	and God the Spir - it,	



last - ing	light,	O Christ, re - deem - er	of us all,
splen - dor	bright,	not as a mon - arch,	but the child
hearts must	bow:	all things on earth	with one ac - cord,
ter - nal	day;	de - fend us while we	dwell be - low
Three in	One,	praise, hon - or, might,	and glo - ry be



we pray you	hear us	when we	call.
of Mar - y,	bles - ed	moth - er	mild.
like those	in heav'n,	shall call	you Lord.
from all	as - saults	of our	dread foe.
from age	to age	e - ter - nal - ly.	A - men.

**\* THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

**\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P** As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

**P** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**P** Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

**THE OFFERING**



**\* THE OFFERTORY**

**“Give Thanks”**

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,

give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And

now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

*Last time*

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS. Henry Smith

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### Welcome to the Feast of Holy Communion. (Gluten free wafers available, ask the Pastors)

We believe that in the sacrament Holy Communion, the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. All who trust in Jesus and call upon his name as Lord are invited to receive Holy Communion. Guests who are with us, who regularly commune in their home congregations, are also welcome. Children who have not yet been instructed in receiving the sacrament are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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 testament in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\* THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

**P The gifts of God for the people of God.**

**C I am not worthy to receive you, Lord; but only say the Word and I shall be healed.**

**\* LAMB OF GOD**

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



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on  
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's  
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save  
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 Oh, come, O 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*

*Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
 Tune: French processional, 15th cent.*

VENI, EMMANUEL  
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**"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

**ELW #254**



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
 Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835*

JEFFERSON  
 8 7 8 7 D

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

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Gracious God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we serve you.

**C** Amen.

**\* BLESSING**

**P** Let us bless our God:

**C** praise and thanks to you.

**P** May God the Father bless you and keep you,  
may Christ be ever light for your lives,  
may the Spirit of Love be your guide and path,  
for all of your days.

**C** Amen.

**\* SENDING HYMN**

**"People Look East"**

**ELW #248**

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965  
 Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934  
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BESANÇON  
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**\* DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

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