



FIRST SUNDAY OF

Advent

Sunday, December 3rd, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Service Theme
The King Is Coming To Save Us

This Sunday's lessons remind us that our King is coming soon to save us. In our Gospel reading, Jesus exhorts us to keep watch for his unexpected return. In our Old Testament reading, Isaiah longs for the LORD to graciously deliver his undeserving people - just as He did during the time of the Exodus. In our Epistle lesson, God promises to enrich us with every spiritual gift needed so that we can stand firm as we wait for our King to come again on judgment day.

Hymn

CW 25 The King shall come when Morning Dawn

**1 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes—**

**2 Not as of old a little child
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.**

**3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.**

**4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see his face.**

**5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!**

Order of Service

Common Service (p.15)

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Candles

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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.**

Confession and Absolution

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.**

C: *(sing)* **Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

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: *(sing)* **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: *(sing)* **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, your great glory,
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.
For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

First Reading
Isaiah 64:1-9 (EHV)

All of us have become unclean, tainted by sin. So we needed our King to come to save us.

Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down. Mountains then would quake because of your presence.

²As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil, make your name known to your adversaries. Then nations would quake in your presence.

³You did amazing things that we did not expect. You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence.

⁴From ancient times no one has heard. No ear has understood. No eye has seen any god except you, who goes into action for the one who waits for him.

⁵You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness, who remembers you by walking in your ways!

But you were angry because we sinned. We have remained in our sins for a long time. Can we still be saved?

⁶All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth. All of us have withered like a leaf, and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

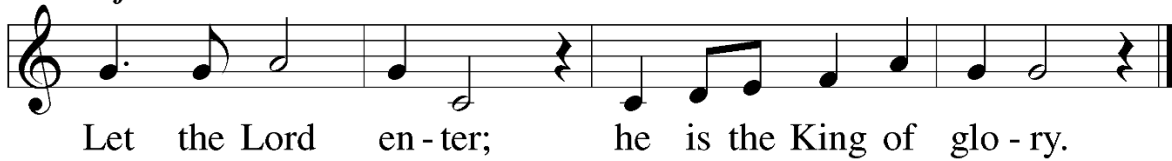
⁷There is no one who calls on your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you. So you hid your face from us. You made us melt by the power of our guilt.

⁸But now, LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand.

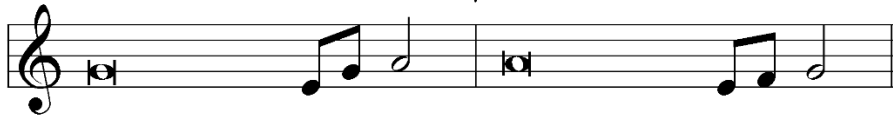
⁹Do not be angry, LORD, without limit. Do not remember our guilt forever. Please look closely. All of us are your people.

Psalm
24 (p. 73)

Refrain



Psalm tone



The earth is the LORD'S, and
everything in it,*
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 (EHV)

Our faithful God promises to enrich us with every spiritual gift so that we can stand firm as we wait for our King to come again on judgment day.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! ⁴I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. ⁵You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, ⁶because the testimony about Christ was established in you. ⁷As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (Revelation 22:20)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:32–37 (EHV)

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

Jesus encourages us to be watchful for his return – doing the things he assigned us to do to spread his kingdom.

³²"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!"

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

CW 2 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 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned, Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!
- 4 From the Father's throne he came And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell—High the song of triumph swell!
- 5 Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

Sermon Text & Theme

Mark 13:32-37 ... **Servants of Christ: Keep watch.**

- 1) By doing the work he has given you to do.
- 2) By expecting his return at any moment.

Response: "Create In Me"

C: (sing) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer for Advent

Come, dear Savior. We long for your appearing!

Come to cheer us with your promises, as you once cheered your ancient people throughout their long night of waiting and watching.

Come to restore our hope. Rouse us from the slumber of despair; lift our hearts from petty, earthbound goals; and direct our eyes above, from where you will soon come to make all things right again.

Come and work in us a godly grief and a genuine sorrow over sin. Forgive us for the shameful way we have dishonored you and the shabby way we have dealt with one another. Through your mighty Word, stir up in us a ceaseless yearning to give ourselves to others, as you have given yourself for us.

Come also to rekindle our joy as we prepare to celebrate your first coming. Do not permit a frenzied busyness to rob us of your peace or to deprive us of times to ponder and to wonder at your Word. Set our hearts apart from the bustle and the clamor and the jostle of these days. Fill us with the quiet delight of finding you in the manger, and keep hearts and minds undisturbed by the great throng that streams by uncaring.

We pray also for those enduring great sorrow, for those undergoing spiritual trial, and for those whose restless hearts have no knowledge of your coming. Comfort, strengthen, and illumine them with the sweet peace born of your love, and keep them in the way of peace by your Holy Word.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Come quickly, dear Lord, and fill our longing eyes with the light of your coming! We wait, we keep watch, and in you we put our hope. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sing)* And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sing)* We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: *(sing)* It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord *whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

C: *(sing)* Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Word of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: (sing) **Amen.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.
Amen.**

Distribution

Thanksgiving

C: (sing) **Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: (sing) **And his mercy endures forever.**

Final Prayer

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sing) **Amen.**

Blessing

M: 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: (sing) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Hymn

CW 12 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

**1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**2 He comes the captives to release,
In Satan's prison held.
The gates of brass before him burst;
The iron fetters yield.**

**3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.**

**4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.**

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

December 10 – James // December 17 – Barnabas

DIVINE WORD'S TWO WEEK CALENDAR

Su (3)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 3:00 pm	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship & Communion First Fellowship Worship and Communion in Poltimore
We (6)	6:30 pm	“Test the Spirits” Bible Information Class.
Th (7)	10:30 am 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Devotion at Longfield Manor Illuminé (at St. Paul’s) Youth Confirmation (W)
Fr (8)	3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Women’s Bible Study Youth Confirmation (D) Friday Fellowship
Su (10)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 11:45 am	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship Coffee Hour Voter’s Meeting
We (13)	6:30 pm	“Test the Spirits” Bible Information Class.
Th (14)	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Illuminé (at St. Paul’s) <i>No Youth Confirmation</i>
Fr (15)	3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Women’s Bible Study Youth Confirmation (D) Friday Fellowship
Su (17)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship & Communion Coffee Hour



Divine Word

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