

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION

28 November 2021

GATHERING

OPENING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.
2. The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.
3. The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff’rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.
4. Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o’er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth’s redemption
that sets your people free!

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THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Calvin Rasmussen

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

v. 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, rouse us from sleep that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen

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“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

v. 2

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

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SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory, we may joyfully give him praise. In Christ's name we pray. Amen**

From *Book of Common Worship*, edited, © 1993 Westminster/John Knox Press.

WORD

ANTHEM

“Lo, How a Rose”

Michael Praetorius, comp.

THE FIRST LESSON

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.

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* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SING

Al - le - lu - ia - Al - le - lu - ia! We come, Oh—
Lord, to hear the good news, To hear— your good word.

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.

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CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

Pastor Aaron Couch

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Canticle of the Turning"

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings
of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight
on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west
shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

**My heart shall sing
of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last
from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts
the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might,
put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

3. From the halls of pow'r
to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware
for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread,
ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

4. Though the nations rage
from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word
that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod
can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

Refrain

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: As we wait in hope for our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

After each petition...

Assistant: God of faithfulness,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Hear our prayers, O God of steadfast love, as we wait and watch for all your promises to be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

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HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

SETTING THE TABLE “The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

1. The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
the feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav’n are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Refrain:

**Sing with thankfulness
songs of pure delight.
Come and revel
in heaven’s love and light.**

**Take your place at
the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin,
the feast is ready to begin.**

3. The hungry heart he satisfies,
offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav’n
and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord.

Refrain

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: It is indeed right and good...

...To you, O God, be praise and glory, now and forever.

People: Amen

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

Pastor: While we wait and watch for God to gather all creation together, even now Christ is with us to feed us with forgiveness and love. The body of Christ is given for us. The blood of Christ is shed for us.

BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

People: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray.

**People: God of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbors with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen**

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SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the holy and living God ✠ bless you in darkness and in light, in fasting and in feasting, in sadness and in joy.

People: **Amen**

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CLOSING HYMN

“The King Shall Come”

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.

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SENDING

Assistant: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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."

Psalm 25:1-10**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

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

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] "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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

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

³⁴"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, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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