

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023**

PRELUDE, BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME

HYMN “Arise, O Christian People” LSB 354 (Saturday only here)

- 1 Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.

- 2 Prepare the way before Him;
Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him,
This great, this heav’nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.

- 3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God’s invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord’s delight.

- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessèd Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I’ll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbuchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

SENIOR CHOIR - "Come Softly, Christmas" (Sunday only)

Text: Ester Silvius

Music: Deborah Governor

Copyright © 1989 Richmond Music Press, Inc. (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

Used by permission: CCLI License #671043 CCLI Song #589551

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 33:20–22

P: Our soul waits for the LORD;

C: He is our help and our shield.

P: For our heart is glad in Him,

C: because we trust in His holy name.

P: Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

C: even as we hope in You.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Confident in His steadfast love, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of waiting on You and clinging to Your promises, we impatiently go our own way. Instead of loving our neighbors as ourselves, we put our wants first and serve our interests instead of Yours, O God. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: “You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 1:7–8). Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, taking away our guilt and giving us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our Savior and King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: O Lord, Branch of Jesse’s tree, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us as we wait for Your revealing. Protect us by Your hand that we may be rescued from the guilt of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1:26–28, 31; 2:19–24; 3:14–15

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge – because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24–37

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

"But in those days, following that distress, " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

"At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.

I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.

It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' (NIV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN “All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall” LSB 562

- 1 All mankind fell in Adam’s fall;
One common sin infects us all.
From one to all the curse descends,
And over all God’s wrath impends.
- 2 Through all our pow’rs corruption creeps
And us in dreadful bondage keeps;
In guilt we draw our infant breath
And reap its fruits of woe and death.
- 3 From hearts depraved, to evil prone,
Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;
God’s image lost, the darkened soul
Seeks not nor finds its heav’nly goal.
- 4 But Christ, the second Adam, came
To bear our sin and woe and shame,
To be our life, our light, our way,
Our only hope, our only stay.
- 5 As by one man all mankind fell
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
So by one Man, who took our place,
We all were justified by grace.
- 6 We thank You, Christ; new life is ours,
New light, new hope, new strength, new pow’rs.
This grace our ev’ry way attend
Until we reach our journey’s end.

Text: Lazarus Spengler, 1479–1534; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.

Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

SERMON *“It’s a Wonder-full Life! But what if...Adam and Eve hadn’t been created?”* **Text: Genesis 1-3**

OFFERING

HYMN “What Hope! An Eden Prophesied” LSB 342

- 1 What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stem,
A branch from David’s line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
The fruit of God’s design.
- 3 As banner of God’s love unfurled,
Christ came to suffer loss,

That by His death a dying world
Would rally to the cross.

- 4 Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,
Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword—
Come, open heaven's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth; setting: Kevin J. Hildebrand, b. 1973

Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003888

Music: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: As we wait in hope for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His Advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

Gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your goodness and mercy that follow us all the days of our lives. You are our God; we are Your people. You have purchased and won us from sin and death by the sacrifice of Your Son upon the cross and by His rising from the grave. As He now sits at Your right hand, exalted over all things, we wait expectantly for the Day of His revealing. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, "We wait in hope for the Lord!"

C: He is our help and our shield.

P: Mighty King and loving Savior, we thank You for the authority You have over all things in heaven and on earth. To a world in disarray and for a people filled with despair, You alone offer hope, peace, and certainty that all things are in Your hands. Help us to trust in You, Lord Jesus, even as we wait for the redemption You will provide on the Day You come again to judge the living and the dead. Bless the land in which we live and all those who serve for the benefit of us all. Be present in our homes, our schools, and our workplaces that Your provision be known to all. We wait in hope for the Lord!

C: He is our help and our shield.

P: Healer of the broken and sustainer of the weary, grant the comfort of Your Holy Spirit to all who are suffering in heart, body, mind, and spirit. Remind those who are downtrodden that they are never alone, and use us as Your people to reach out in care and compassion to those in our family, our community, and within this C: who need Your healing mercies, [*especially ...*]. We wait in hope for the Lord!

C: He is our help and our shield.

P: Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into Your merciful hands, for You, O Father, live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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 and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

**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.**

HYMN "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray" LSB 623

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
 - 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.
 - 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.
 - 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
 - 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.
- Text: Henry E. Jacobs, 1844–1932, alt.

Tune: Cationale Germanicum, Gochsheim, 1628; setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958

Text and music: Public domain

HYMN “Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” LSB 625

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,
 May I in grace possess You.
Let me with holy food be fed,
 In hunger I address You.
Prepare me well for You, O Lord,
And, humbly by my prayer implored,
 Give me Your grace and mercy.

- 2 To pastures green, Lord, safely guide,
 To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide,
 Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak,
Refuge in You alone I seek,
 To share Your cup of healing.

- 3 O bread of heav’n, my soul’s delight,
 For full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight
 In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me
That I receive You worthily,
 Assured of Your full pardon.

- 4 I do not merit favor, Lord,
 My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart’s discord,
 O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me
That You receive me graciously,
 O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Tune: Theutsch kirchen ampt, Strassburg, 1525; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

HYMN “Arise, O Christian People” LSB 354 (Sunday only here)

- 1 Arise, O Christian people!
 Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
 Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
 The truth and light were given;
 The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.

- 2 Prepare the way before Him;
 Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him,

This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.

3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord's delight.

4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessèd Adventide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbuchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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.

C: Amen.

HYMN “God of Grace and God of Glory” LSB 850

1 God of grace and God of glory,
On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

3 Cure Your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to Your control;

Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

- 4 Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969

Tune: John Hughes. 1873-1932; setting Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948

Text and tune: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.

Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.