

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 9:00am
Bright Lights of Bethlehem...Putting On The Light
First Sunday in Advent - DSS2



Welcome to the season of waiting!

Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred Season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power and glory on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in majesty over all things.

Until His ultimate revealing on that Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting His promise to make us guiltless in His sight.

With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).

Prelude

#331, The Advent of Our King

**1 The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ, And we must hymns of welcome
sing In strains of holy joy.**

**2 The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be, Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.**

**3 O Zion's daughter, rise To meet your lowly King, Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.**

**4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.**

**5 Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone, The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.**

**6 All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free, With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.

Text: Public domain

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, 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: Amen.

KYRIE LSB 168

A: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: 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: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

During the Season of Advent, the Gloria In Excelsis is omitted

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray,

C: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils 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.

Congregation

C: Amen.

Children's Time

Isaiah 64:1–9

Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make Your name known to Your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at Your presence! When You did awesome things that we did not look for, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides You, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember You in Your ways. Behold, You were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon Your name, who rouses himself to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all Your people.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Romans 13:11–14 [Sermon Text]

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE LSB 173

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that He is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It’s like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

#345, *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say. “Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!”

2 Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.

3 See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv’n;

4 So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

The Sermon

Putting On The Light

P: Please rise and join me as we profess our faith,

C: 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.

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

OFFERTORY LSB 176

C: What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

The Prayers of His Children:

P: Lord in Your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

PREFACE LSB 177

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 Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing,

SANCTUS LSB 178

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 Words Of Our Lord

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Jesus 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.

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

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI LSB 180

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 Distribution of Holy Communion

#332, 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 Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild. In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall; God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.

5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course. Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won. By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night. Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

**8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king, Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.**

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobier, 1973
Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain

#350, *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals! Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals. Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.**
 - 2 Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy. Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly. Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!**
 - 3 My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee; Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee, And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.**
 - 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication! Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation, That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.**
- Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

#508, *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near*

- 1 The day is surely drawing near When Jesus, God's anointed, In all His power shall appear As judge whom God appointed. Then fright shall banish idle mirth, And flames on flames shall ravage earth As Scripture long has warned us.**
- 2 The final trumpet then shall sound And all the earth be shaken, And all who rest beneath the ground Shall from their sleep awaken. But all who live will in that hour, By God's almighty, boundless pow'r, Be changed at His commanding.**
- 3 The books are opened then to all, A record truly telling What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was dwelling, And ev'ry heart be clearly seen, And all be known as they have been In thoughts and words and actions.**
- 4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but carnal pleasures, Who here despised His precious Word And loved their earthly treasures! With shame and trembling they will stand And at the judge's stern command To Satan be delivered.**
- 5 My Savior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smitten; Within the Book of Life I know My name has now been written. I will not doubt, for I am free, And Satan cannot threaten me; There is no condemnation!**
- 6 May Christ our intercessor be And through His blood and merit Read from His book that we are free With all who life inherit. Then we shall see Him face to face, With all His saints in that blest place Which He has purchased for us.**
- 7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay, But hasten our salvation; We often tremble on our way In fear and tribulation. O hear and grant our fervent plea: Come, mighty judge, and set us free From death and ev'ry evil.**

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.
Text: Public domain

THANK THE LORD LSB 181

**C: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy**

with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

P: Together, we pray,

C: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God's Benediction

#341, Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing. To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.**
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility, His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress. The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.**
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free. To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.**
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin. To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!**
- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide! O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine. Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won. Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.**

Text: Georg Weisdel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

Ministry Announcements

Postlude