

# FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29, 2020



**AS WE GATHER:** The Church Year begins by taking us to the scene of our Lord's final entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week. Yes, Christmas is at hand. Surely the preparations for the celebration of His incarnation, His earthly birth of the Virgin Mary, are already well under way. But wait a moment. We enter this new year already knowing why He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit for us and for our salvation, which is only by way of His passion, death, and resurrection. We begin by continuing to "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" on the Last Day (1 Corinthians 1:7), sustained by Him now in the forgiveness of our sins, guiltless and ready. In readiness, we boldly pray that our Lord comes to rescue and save us.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN** "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide" #355 v. 1, 4, 7

- 1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;  
Come down, come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;  
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.
- 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?  
When will You come with comfort strong?  
O come, O come, Your throne forego;  
Console us in our vale of woe.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring  
And sing to You, our Savior King;

There shall we laud You and adore  
Forever and forevermore.

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## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and  
of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: **and illumine Your Church.**

Pastor: The 1<sup>st</sup> candle to be lit is known as the candle  
of Hope. This candle reminds us that God  
keeps His promises. He promised a Savior,  
and He sent One.

**HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #357 v. 1

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*1 John 1:8; John 3:16;*

*Matthew 5:16*

Pastor: As we begin a new Church Year, let us put behind us everything in the past that would disqualify us from a new life, and remembering our Baptism, we boldly petition our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking for our entry into His presence and His plan and future for us, saying, stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,

**People: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.**

Pastor: What are those threatening perils? I now ask you before God, who searches the heart, do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

**People: I do confess.**

Pastor: So you should confess as Holy Scripture says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Do you also repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

**People: I do repent.**

Pastor: So you should repent as did King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

**People: I do believe.**

Pastor: So you should believe as Holy Scripture declares, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

**People: I do promise.**

Pastor: So you should promise for Christ the Lord says, “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

**People: I do believe.**

Pastor: As you believe, even so may it be to you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,  
**People: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. Amen.**

### ✠ WORD ✠

**INTROIT** *Psalm 25:1–3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.  
To you, O LORD, lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**People:** **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.**

**Pastor:** Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

## **SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

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.

**People:** **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *Isaiah 64:1–9*    (Rend the heavens and come down)

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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? <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

People: **Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

**EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 1:3–9 (Thanksgiving)*

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus

Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *Mark 11:1–10*     (The triumphal entry)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

11 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’”

<sup>4</sup> And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup> And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup> And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup> And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup> And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostle's Creed*

**People:**        **I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

**SERMON HYMN**    “Savior of the Nations, Come”  
#332 v. 1,2,4

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



**SERMON** "Our King Is Coming" – Mark 11:1-10

**HYMN** "Savior of the Nations, Come" #332 v. 6, 8

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.

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

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## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, our Father, we give You thanks that You bring us once again into a new Church Year whereby we confess and proclaim Your great love for the world in the sending of Your only-begotten Son as the Child of the Virgin Mary, the Lamb proclaimed by John the Baptist, the teacher of the holy apostles, the sacrifice for the sins of the world on the cross, and the risen Savior of all, who will come again in glory on the Last Day. Lord, keep us in this confession and faith, and bless its proclamation throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Supply Your whole Church on earth with faithful pastors and laborers who will continually feed

and lead Your people, rightly proclaiming Your Word, administering Your Holy Sacraments, and caring for all in their charge. Guard and bless Your pastors and church workers of LC-C. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: That we may live in peace and safety, we ask You to continually bless those in the authority of government. We pray for her Majesty the Queen, the governor general, the prime minister, the Parliament, the government of this province, and all who have authority over us. Grant that they rule according to Your good pleasure by Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Comfort, O Lord, all who are in trouble, danger, or illness, [*especially . . .*]. Grant healing, peace, and courage for all bearing their crosses to Your praise and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

*[Individual petitions may be added here]*

(After each petition the pastor prays, Lord, in Your mercy, and the people respond, **hear our prayer.**)

Pastor: As Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, came down to us at Christmas and now comes to us by Your Spirit in Your Word, we pray for His final coming to deliver us all in the great day of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:**       **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.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:**       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. *Numbers 6:24–26*

**People:**       **Amen.**

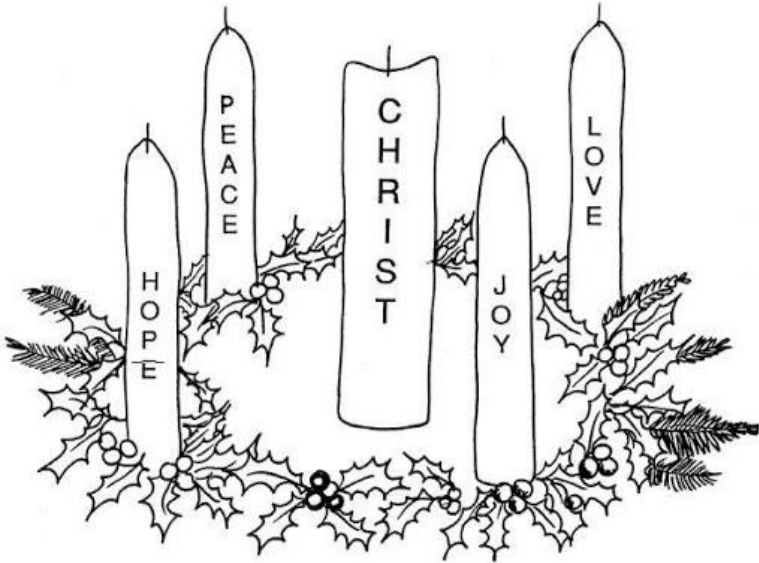
**HYMN**         “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

*#348 v.1, 2, 5*

- 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.

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!

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