

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

THEME: Our priorities are put in place as we hear that Jesus is coming to be our King.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

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

C: Amen!

WE CONFESS OUR SIN...

P: This is a season of busyness as we draw closer to Christmas. Our thoughts quickly turn to the buying of presents, writing Christmas cards and the preparing desserts. As we begin to do all of these activities, we set aside just a few moments this morning to quiet our hearts and ponder the meaning of Advent. We begin our Advent walk together by confessing our sins.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and give appropriate praise to your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: We confess together: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions, by what we have done and what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may have delight in your loving will and walk in your loving ways, to your praise and glory. Amen.

...HEARING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

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 Christ, and by His authority, I announce God's forgiveness to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Green Book" 34 [Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel](#)

*Oh, come, oh, 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.*

*Oh, come oh come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law*

*In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel*

*Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel*

*Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel*

*Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray together.

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. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

The First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

Isaiah delivers good news that the "Lord is coming to teach us his ways".

*The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,*

*that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.*

[The Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14](#)

Our time is short. “Making no provision for the flesh”, we prepare for the Lord.

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.

[CHOIR ANTHEM](#) [“Prepare the Way” by Joseph Martin](#)

[The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11](#)

The crowd shouts, “Hosanna! Come, Lord Jesus!” as Jesus enters the city

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

*“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”*

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

[CHILDREN’S MESSAGE](#)

SERMON SONG "Green Book" 35 Hark The Glad Sound

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

*He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.*

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

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

SERMON "Keeping first things.....first"

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

C: We believe in God, the Creator of all things, the source of all goodness and love..... We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God yet true man..... He was crucified, died and was buried for our sin that we might be free and know the joy of life.....He was raised on the third day and ascended to heaven.....and will come again in power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.....We believe in the Holy Spirit, the power of God at work inside of us.....We believe in the church of God, the people of faith throughout the world.....We believe that our sin is forgiven and that we will live together with God for now and throughout eternity. Amen

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(after each prayer)

P: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

Service of Holy Communion

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

P: Now may this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us all and keep us in his grace.
C: Amen.

CLOSING BLESSING

CLOSING SONG "Green Book" 29 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

*1 "Comfort, comfort now my people; Tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim That God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace fore ever.*

*2 For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Calling all to true repentance, Since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.*

*3 Straight shall be what long was crooked; And the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC