

# ADVENT I WORSHIP ❀ December 3, 2023

Words of Welcome

Gathering Hymn: "The King shall come"

Hymn #73

**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 in glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.**

**3. The King shall come when morning dawns  
and earth's dark night is past;  
O haste the rising of that morn,  
the day that e'er shall last;**

**4. And let the endless bliss begin,  
by weary saints foretold,  
When right shall triumph over wrong,  
and truth shall be extolled.**

**5. The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings;  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray,  
Come quickly, King of Kings!**

The Opening Verse, Confession & Absolution

*Officiant* Keep watch, for you know not when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning; lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A substantial silence for reflection is kept.*

*Officiant* Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Officiant* You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Officiant* You will come in glory with salvation for all your people: Lord, have mercy.  
*People* **Lord, have mercy.**  
*Celebrant* The almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, renewal of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Officiant* In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.  
*People* **Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God.**  
*Officiant* People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of the coming Lord.

*We watch the lighting of the first Advent candle.*

*Priest* Let us pray.  
*People* **Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

SONG: "O come, O come, Emmanuel," verses 1 & 2

**Hymnal #56**

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 thee, O Israel.**
2. **O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ord'rest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

### The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.  
*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise. Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God; As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

*Officiant* Our King and Savior now draws near; come let us adore God.

Song of Faith: Psalm 80:1-7

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

O God of hosts, \*  
**how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
**you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;  
**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

The First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-11

*Reader* A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--  
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil--  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

Your holy cities have become a wilderness,  
Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation.

Our holy and beautiful house,  
where our ancestors praised you, has been burned by fire,  
and all our pleasant places have become ruins.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Faith: Luke 1:68-72, 78-79

**Blessed are You, O God of Israel;**

**you have come to your people and set them free.**

**You have raised up for us a mighty savior,**

**born of the house of your servant David.**

**Through your holy prophets you promised of old**

**that you would save us from our enemies,**

**from the hands of all who hate us.**

**You promised to show mercy to our forebears,**

**and to remember your holy covenant.**

**In the tender compassion of our God**

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,**

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

The Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37

*Reader* A reading from the gospel of Mark.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, 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. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 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 forth 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 tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Prayers

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant* As we pray together, you may unmute yourself if you choose, and you may pray using any version of this prayer that is in your heart. Now, let us pray as God's beloved children, using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*Officiant* We now continue in prayer. Let us hold a brief silence now, while we allow things to come into our minds and hearts that we want to hold in prayer with our community today. You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare your body for prayer in some other way.

*A brief silence is kept.*

*Officiant* Let us now hold up our needs and blessings to God. You can speak your prayers out loud, type them into the Chat area, or hold them in your heart. As you are able, please hold others' prayer requests before God in your heart as well.

*Officiant* Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for all those in authority.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for all nations and peoples.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for our local communities.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list: .... You are invited to name others in need of prayer, and to hold up your own struggles to the light of God's love.

*The people may offer additional names.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn.

*The people may offer additional names.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant*

Let us pray. O Lord, you have set before us the great hope that your kingdom shall come on earth, and have taught us to pray for its coming: Give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning, and to work for the perfect day when your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Officiant may read one of the following Collects as well:*

*A Collect for Peace*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Collect for Grace*

Lord God, almighty and everlasting One, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Collect for Guidance*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sharing of Birthday, Anniversary & Other Blessings

*Officiant*

Does anyone have a December birthday or anniversary, or other blessings or celebrations to share with the assembly today?

The Peace

*Celebrant* In the tender mercy of our God,  
the Dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you!

*People* **And also with you!**

*We greet one another, wishing one another the peace of Christ.*

## Announcements

### The Blessing & Dismissal

*Celebrant*      May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the shadows from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, Source, Word, and Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Officiant*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*          **Thanks be to God!**