

First Sunday in Advent

“Come, O Wisdom”

November 29, 2020 | 9:45 am | Ascension Lutheran Church



Words of Welcome


Invocation

P We begin in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Hymn


LSB 341 | “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”


1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the
2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His character
3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the


King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing
is humbly, His kingly crown is glorious
ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy


near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and sal-
vation, His scepter, pity in distress. The end of
homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloudless


vation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.


To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

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Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P For centuries, the church has used through Advent a series of antiphons, or responses, to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ’s birth. These seven responses, names and titles for our Savior, are often called the “O Antiphons,” familiar to us in the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” We light the first candle on the Advent wreath in praise to Christ, who is the Wisdom of God. The apostle John writes, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . .”

C All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.” (John 1:1-3)

P The apostle Paul writes, “For by [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.

C **And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”** (Colossians 1:16-17)

P O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with Your strong yet tender care.

C **Come show Your people the way to salvation!**

The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit.

Special Music | “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Confession of Our Sins

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

A *Almighty God, You rule over us in wisdom, but we, Your servants, do not always act wisely. Foolishly, we listen to the temptations of the devil and the world around us. We follow our own selfish desires. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Forgiveness of Our Sins

P God in His mercy sent His Son to be our Savior and our Wisdom. Jesus laid down His life and rose from the dead to win for us forgiveness and life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, rule over us and keep us in Your care.

Response Verse

LSB 341 | “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
Sov - reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!

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Prayer of the Day

P Lord Jesus, Word and Wisdom of God, You came among us as a helpless infant, and now You are exalted to rule over all creation. Crucified and risen Lord, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to You. Rule over us in wisdom and love. Lead us by Your Spirit to walk

in Your ways, through this Advent season and always. Help us to be bold and faithful witnesses for You so that others will come to know and worship You as Lord.

C Amen.

Response Verse

LSB 341 | "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"



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.

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Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 55:8-13

⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading | 1 Corinthians 1:20-25

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel | Matthew 7:24-29

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” ²⁸And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

A *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.

Hymn of the Day

LSB 344 | “On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.

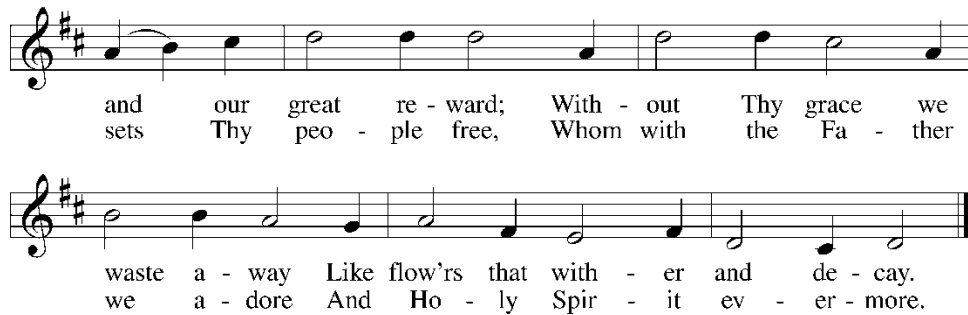
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Message | “Come, O Wisdom”

Response Verse

LSB 344 | “On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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Prayers of God's People

P Lord Jesus Christ, You are for us the power of God and the wisdom of God. We pray that You will help us to grow in wisdom according to Your Word. Lead us to build our lives and hope on Your Word and promises. You came among us in weakness, yet in that weakness was found all the power and wisdom of God for our salvation. Use us to reach out to those among us who are suffering illness, loss and need (especially . . .). Give us opportunities to share Your love with them through our kind and caring words and actions. Help us by Your Spirit to be bold witnesses for You, to share with an unbelieving world that You are the Wisdom of God, and the power of God for our salvation and theirs. (Special petitions may be offered.) As we prepare to celebrate Your birth, lead us to look into the manger with eyes of faith and to recognize You there as the Wisdom and power of God.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

A *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

P We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks,

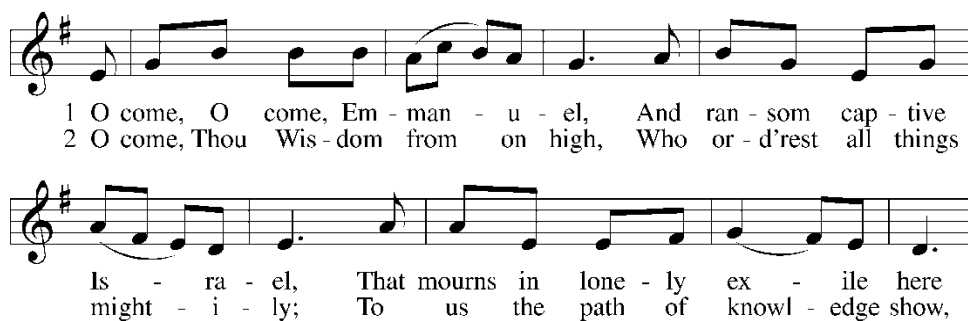
C Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:23-24)

P Now may the Lord of peace Himself —Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit— give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

LSB 357 | "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,

Un - til the Son of God ap-pear. Re - joice! Re-joice!
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re-joice!

Refrain
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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Sending

P Go forth in peace and wisdom to love and serve the Lord!

G Thanks be to God!

Postlude