

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent, remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son, our Savior. Slow our pace, and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

arr. John A. Behnke

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Debbie Blaho

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Mark, Désirée, & Devin

Leader: Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

People: "Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved."

(lighting of the candle)

Leader: Light one candle; see it glow
Brightly, so that all may know

How one candle shows the way
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: Let us pray:

People: Dear God, on this first Sunday of Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn**

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

#144

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*read in unison*)

God of forgiveness and mercy, hear our prayer as we confess our shortcomings and feelings of guilt. With moments so critical, we casually let time "just go by." With deliverance so near, we linger in the darkness. With Christ as our armor, we yet fear the unknown foe. With the night having passed, we still hesitate to greet the new day. O God, lead us forth, that the moment may be met. Dispel the shadows so that your will may be clear. Clothed with light and new life in Christ, let us go forth as those who are alert, awake, and ready. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God" (v. 5) #99

Praise God, whose lov-ing cov-e-nant supports those in distress, re -
mem-ber-ing past prom-is - es with pres-ent faith-ful - ness.

Text: Miriam Therese Winter, 1979; rev. 1987
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Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Choir Anthem "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" arr. Michael Cox, 1997

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Season of Mystery"

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Advent Statement of Faith

We are an Advent people, a people of hope.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be.

And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.

***Hymn**

“The Days Are Surely Coming”

#357

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Leader: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

People: We pray for peace in every nation—that people will turn their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and study war no more.

Leader: Pray for the peace of the church.

People: We pray for peace in Christ’s body—put an end to the fear and fighting, and help us to proclaim in word and action the good news of salvation to all.

Leader: Pray for the peace of this community.

People: We pray for peace in this place—for safety in our homes and streets, for the prosperity of our neighbors, and for the health of family and friends.

Leader: We pray for those who need your healing and strength. ... And now we pray as Christ taught us:

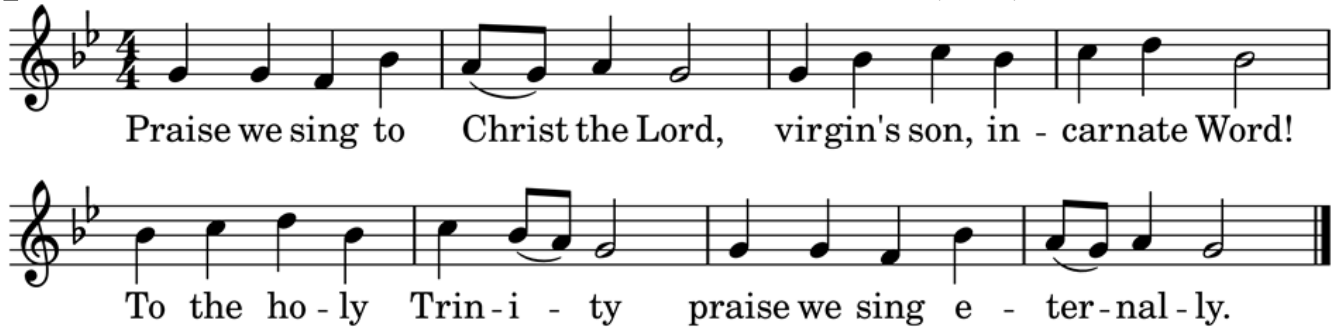
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (v. 4)

#102



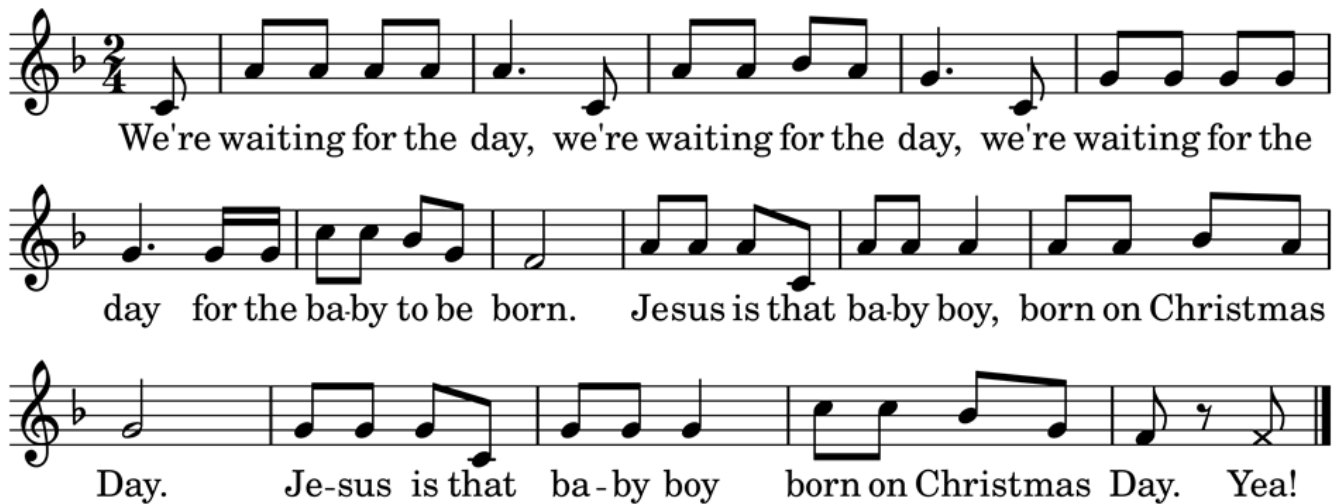
Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, in - carnate Word!
To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;
English trans. stanza 4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress
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Prayer of Dedication*The Sending of God's People*****Closing Hymn**

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

#92

Charge and Blessing**Congregational Response “Advent Song”**


We're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the
day for the baby to be born. Jesus is that baby boy, born on Christmas
Day. Je-sus is that ba-by boy born on Christmas Day. Yea!

Words and Music: Thomas & Joyce Lloyd

***Postlude**

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

Pastors: Rev. Désirée Youngblood

Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Liturgist: Melissa Canney**Music Director:** Thomas Lloyd**Organist:** Carol Welk**Percussionist:** Mark E. Johnson**Acolyte:** Devin Griggs

Flowers: The flowers on the altar are in honor of Devin Griggs' birthday, given by his parents, Pastor Désirée & Pastor Mark.