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December 3, 2023

The First Sunday in Advent

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Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

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## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (vv. 1-4)

- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.
- ♪ Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.

## Invocation

The king is not saved by his great army;

**A warrior is not delivered by his great strength.**

The war horse is a false hope for salvation,

**And by its great might it cannot rescue.**

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,

**On those who hope in His steadfast love,**

That He may deliver their soul from death

**And keep them alive in famine.**

Our soul waits for the LORD;

**He is our help and our shield.**

For our heart is glad in Him,

**Because we trust in His holy name.**

Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

**Even as we hope in You.**

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

**Amen.**

*Psalm 33:16–22*

*Matthew 28:19b*

## Confession and Absolution

Confident in His steadfast love, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of waiting on You and clinging to Your promises, we impatiently go our own way. Instead of loving our neighbors as ourselves, we put our wants first and serve our interests instead of Yours, O God. For**

**the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 1:7-8*

*A Time of Silence*

Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, taking away our guilt and giving us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our Savior and King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us as we wait for Your arrival. Protect us by Your hand that 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.**

**Hymn of Praise**

“God Loves Me Dearly”

♪ God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

~Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

♪ I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working To make me free. ~Therefore...

♪ He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus And set me free. ~Therefore...

♪ Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. ~Therefore...

♪ Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise You All my life long. ~Therefore....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 392-Text: August Rische 1819-1906*

*Tune: German; Setting: All God's People Sing 1992; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 64:1-9

<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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

<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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (vv. 5-8)

♪ God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.

♪ 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.

♪ From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

*Please Stand*

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

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 332-Text: atr. Ambrose of Milan 340-397; German version, Martin Luther 1483-1546;  
tr. William M. Reynolds 1812-76 vv.1-2; tr. Lutheran Service Book 2006 vv. 3&6; tr. F. Samuel Janzow 1913-2001 vv.4-5&8;  
©1978 Concordia Publishing House; tr. Gifford A. Grobrien b.1973 v.7

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## Holy Gospel

Mark 11:1–10

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>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!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Nicene Creed

### Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

**The Hymn**      *Music: “Joyful, Joyful” Hymn 803*      “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

♪ 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 ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry 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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 338 -Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Public Domain;  
Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827; adapted Edward Hodges 1796-1867; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Proclamation of the Word

“Rescued”

Psalm 33:16–22

## Offering and Musical Offering

### Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Colossians 3:1*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Psalm 136*

## Proper Preface

**Sanctus Hymn**      *Music: "Away in a Manger," Hymn 364*

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God, Almighty. The earth and the heavens all magnify Thee.  
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest praise, O blessed is He that comes in Your great name.

**Words of Our Lord**

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Agnus Dei Hymn**      *Music: "Away in a Manger," Hymn 364*

♪ O Jesus, our Savior, the true Lamb of God; Forgiveness in Your name, have mercy on us.  
O Jesus, our Savior, the true Lamb of God, Give peace to Your people, have mercy on us.

**Distribution Hymns**

**"Once He Came in Blessing"**

♪ Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing; Came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy; Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

♪ Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us Precious food from heaven,  
Pledge of peace here given, Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

♪ Soon will come that hour When with mighty power Christ will come in splendor  
And will judgment render, With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

♪ Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us. Keep our hearts believing,  
That we, grace receiving, Ever may console You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 333 -Text: Johann Horn c.1490-1547; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 vv. 1&4,  
tr. Lutheran Service Book 2006 vv.2-3; Setting: Henry V. Gerike b.1948; ©2006 Concordia Publishing House;  
Tune: Michael Weisse c.1480-1534; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

**"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, Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy belovèd name.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 349-Text: Philip Doddridge 1702-51; Tune: Thomas Haweis 1734-1820;  
Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

**Prayer of the Church**

*Each petition is concluded with the following:*

We wait in hope for the Lord!

**He is our help and our shield.**

## Benediction

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*

**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- ♪ O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
- ♪ For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
- ♪ How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav’n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.
- ♪ O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 361 -Text: Phillips Brooks 1835-93; Tune: Lewis H. Redner 1831-1908;  
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Postlude