st. john's

Serving Christ & Community! Serving you!



First Sunday of Advent

November 28/29, 2026

As We Gather

The First Sunday in Advent begins what has historically been known in the church as Adventtide. The word *tide* originally meant "time" in Old English. It indicated a special season of reflection and of action set apart for a distinct purpose. Through the words of the hymn "Arise, O Christian People," we pray to our coming King: "Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside, and help me to receive You this blessed Adventtide" (*LSB* 354:4). Whatever may happen in the days ahead, we can prepare our hearts and lives while keeping our focus on the Advent of our King, expectantly awaiting the tidings of great joy that announce His wondrous birth!

Chimes and Prelude

Please Stand

Opening Hymn **"A New Day Dawns"**

Verse 1
A new day dawns at Your command
A precious gift from Your own hand
Lord give us eyes that we might see
What You have willed for us to be

Verse 2
Too often Lord we start the day
Without a thought of what You'd say
Through us if we would fully give
Our lives to You each day we live

Verse 3
Resolved to start each day with prayer
We'll take Your gift use it with care
Within the grasp of Your strong hand
We'll do the work that You have planned

Verse 4
May Your light shine throughout this day
In all we think and do and say
And with full hearts we now will raise
Our song our lives to You in praise

CCLI Song # 3447624 Ron Sprunger © 2001 Lillenas Publishing Company For use solely with the SongSelect®

Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the name of the Father and of the ✣ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

℗ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.

ℂ **But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**

℗ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

ℂ **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

℗ Come, let us hear the living Word who creates, calls, forgives, and gives life.

ℂ **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

℗ Let us confess our sins before God our heavenly Father.

ℂ **Gracious Father, we confess that we have not trusted your holy Word.**

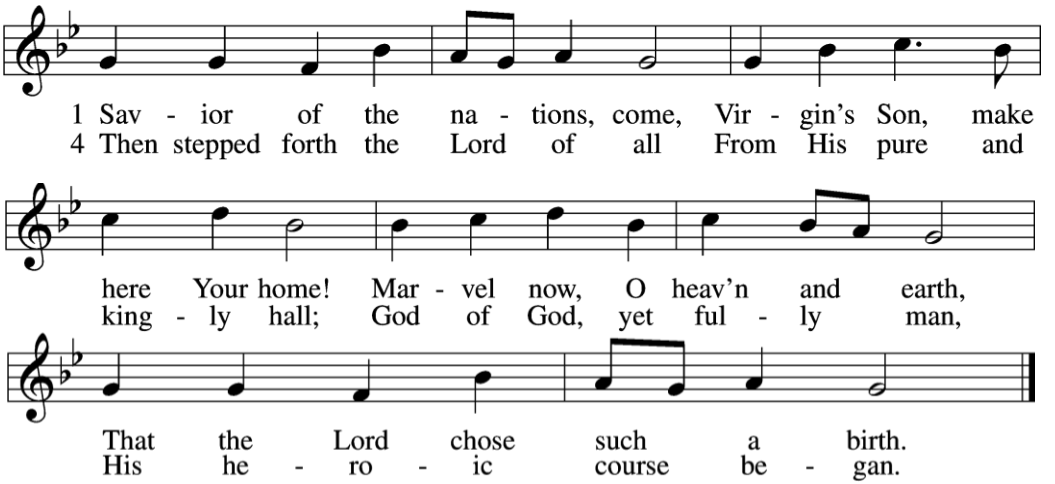
We have listened more eagerly to the voices of this world than to your promises. We have relied upon our own wisdom instead of your truth. We have doubted your goodness when we could not understand your ways, and we have trusted what we can see rather than what you have spoken.

By our thoughts, words, and deeds, we have sinned against you and against our neighbors. We cannot free ourselves from our sin or create within ourselves clean hearts. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us by your living Word, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

℗ Hear the good news. The Word of the Lord does not return empty, but accomplishes the purpose for which he sends it (Isaiah 55:11). That Word became flesh in Jesus Christ, who has borne your sin, conquered your death, and made you a new creation through his cross and resurrection. Therefore, upon this your confession, and as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ℂ **Amen.**

Hymn **"Savior of the Nations, Come"** **LSB 332 (sts 1,4)**



Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 1): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 4): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001315 Text (st. 1) and tune: Public domain

Please Be Seated

Old Testament Reading ***Isaiah 64:1-9***

64 Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
2 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!
3 When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 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.
5 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?
6 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.
7 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.
8 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.
9 Be not so terribly angry, O Lord,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God**

Epistle ***1 Corinthians 1:3-9***

13 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord
C **Thanks be to God**

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.
℃ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel ***Mark 13:24-37***

24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the
moon will not give its light, **25** and the stars will be falling from heaven, and
the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26** And then they will see the Son of
Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. **27** And 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.
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender
and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you
see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
30 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things
take place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass
away.
32 "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels
in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Be on guard, keep awake. For
you do not know when the time will come. **34** It is like a man going on a
journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his
work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. **35** Therefore stay
awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the
evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—
36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. **37** And what I say to you I say to
all: Stay awake."

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.
℃ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

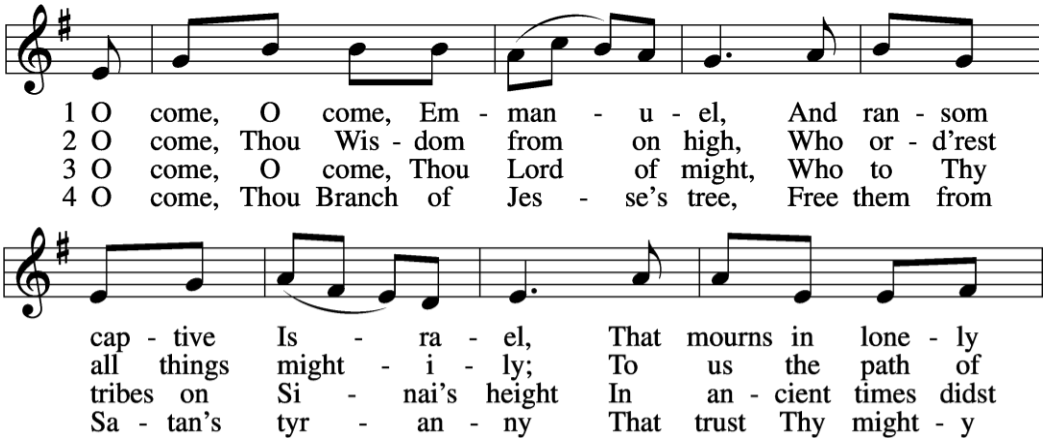
Apostles' Creed

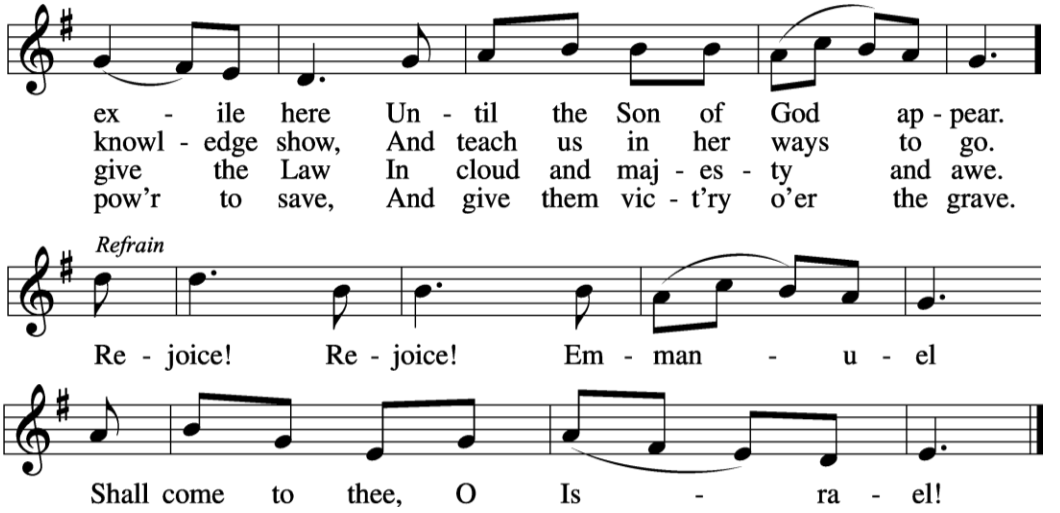
C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the 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.

Please Be Seated

Sermon Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB 357 (sts 1-4)





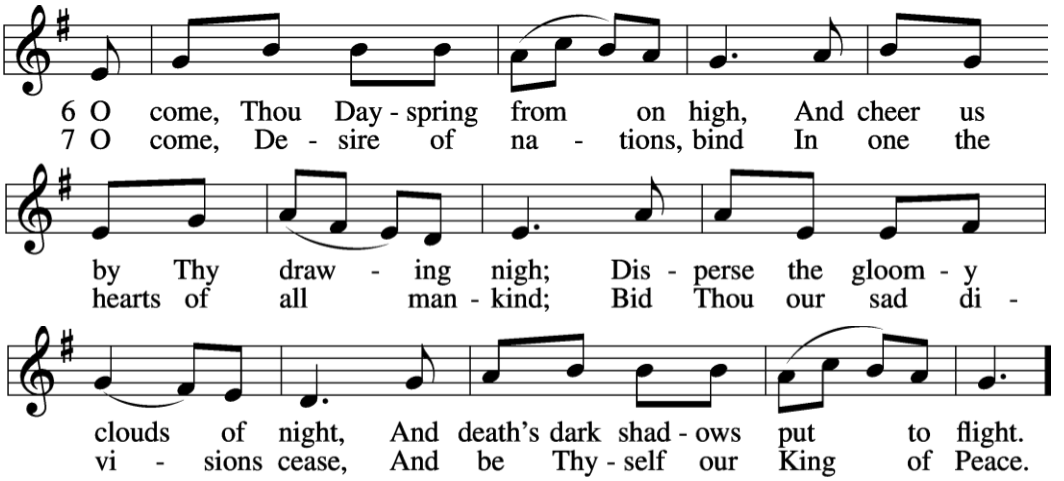
Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

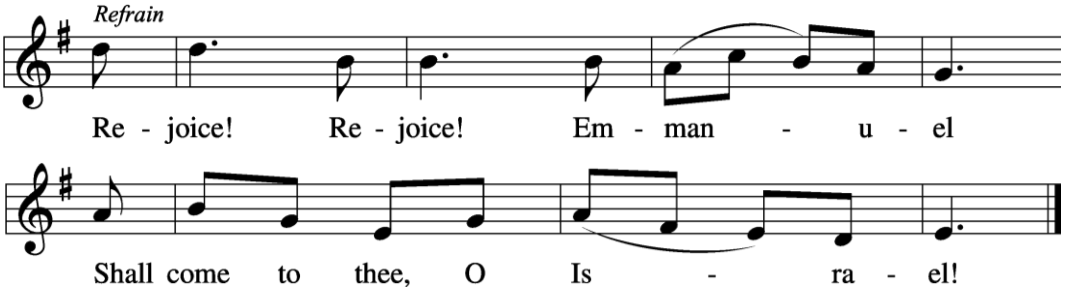
Sermon **"The WORD That Creates"** **(Genesis 1:3-5)**

NOTES:

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Responsive Hymn **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** **LSB 357 (st 6-7)**





Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the church, the community of God's forgiven people, asking that our pastors continue to speak with power among us and that we all be engaged fully in service to God and in ministry to one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer and grant our supplications.**

P We pray this day, as the new Church Year begins, for the fellowship of faith and love that we enjoy as God's holy people, asking that You lead us to continue to gather for worship with great joy and full anticipation of the gifts of God that come to us through our worship. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer and grant our supplications**

P And we pray for those who serve in leadership positions in our national Synod, our district, and our local congregation, that God work among us through their example and witness so that we grow in devotion and dedication in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer and grant our supplications.**

P We also pray this day for the sick, the shut-in and all who are in need of our prayers, **[*especially . . .*],** that their prayers be answered soon and that they be supported by God's people as they experience His good and gracious will for their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer and grant our supplications.**

℗ We pray for those for whom the season of Advent and Christmas may be sad or challenging, that we faithfully reach out to them with compassion and joy, keeping our focus always on the wonderful action of God on our behalf through the coming of Jesus, the King of glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

ℂ **Hear our prayer and grant our supplications.**

℗ With thankfulness we ask God's blessing on all who brighten these darkening days of the year—the shop workers and postal clerks, the musicians and carolers, the delivery people, and all those who work long hours. Help us be truly appreciative of all those who carry out their vocations for the betterment of our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

ℂ **Hear our prayer and grant our supplications.**

℗ Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ℂ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 179*

℗ Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

ℂ **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.

Closing Hymn "Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus" LSB 338 (sts 1-2)

Verse 1
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.

Verse 2
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.

Text; Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Text: Public Domain

Benediction

P The Lord who spoke light into the darkness and faith into your heart, bless you with His unfailing promises and keep you firm in your faith until the day of His return. Amen.

C **Amen.**

Silent Prayer: ***Holy Spirit, as the season of waiting for Christ begins, grant us hope, peace, joy, and guidance to walk in Jesus' love. Amen.***

Announcements
Postlude

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SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEK – November 29/30

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Larry Maaske	Dave Thompson	Brett Richardson
GREETERS	Gary/ Kathy Erickson	Derek/ Carlee Tessendorf	Ryan/ Sue Amendt
USHERS	Jon Werkheiser	Eric Bader	Brian Baumgartner
ACOLYTES	Usher	Ella Korte	Kenzie Hahne
AUDIO/VIDEO	Judy Zier/ Dave Zier	Barb Harbach/ Kory Gerbick	Hudson Winter/ Steve Levan
ALTAR GUILD	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel

SERVING THE LORD NEXT WEEK – December 6/7

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox/ Don Bamberg	Mike Rothschadl/ Kory Gerbick/ Mark Mau	Tim Hamilton/ Kevin Keltner/ Steve Lotz
GREETERS	Tom/ Marquita Bannon	Denny Potter	Rob/ Laura Cobine
USHERS	Fritz Werhane	Heath Harbach	Brandon Falk
ACOLYTES	Usher	Everly Keeffer/ Ben Gerbick	Max Winter/ Blaine Drake
AUDIO/VIDEO	Judy Zier/ Dave Zier	Jeff Jones/ Gary Erickson	Ron Conway/ Steve Levan
ALTAR GUILD	Ellen Conway/ Nancy Jogerst	Ellen Conway/ Nancy Jogerst	Ellen Conway/ Nancy Jogerst