FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Look Out!

AS WE GATHER

“Look out!” is about all we can yell as something unexpected is about to happen. The person we are warning has to be awake in order to respond. That’s why Jesus tells His disciples, including us, to be awake and watchful for His return. He is our Lord and Master—our King! Advent is a gracious time of preparation for Jesus’ coming, once in history, to us in Word and Sacrament today, and at the end of time. When our Lord returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, which Isaiah says will be so peaceful they will “beat their swords into plowshares.” Before that day, preparing means leading loving lives, Paul tells us, for “salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.” Look out! The King comes!
Prelude: “Once He Came in Blessing”
Johannes Petzold/Wilbur Held/Michael Burkhardt

Pastoral Greeting

Advent Announcement: “Call to Advent”
Jerome Williams
Ascension Chorale

Invocation
Congregation, please stand.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Opening Sentences
Matthew 24:42; Romans 13:11; Isaiah 2:4; Psalm 122:1

Pastor: Stay awake,
People: for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
Pastor: For salvation is nearer to us now
People: than when we first believed.
Pastor: They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
People: and their spears into pruning hooks.
Pastor: I was glad when they said to me,
People: “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

Confession and Absolution
Romans 13:12; Isaiah 2:3

Pastor: Our Lord urges us to stay awake and watch for His return, when He will usher in the kingdom of God. Paul tells us to “cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”
People: In our fallen sinful condition, our thoughts, words, and deeds often reflect the fallen world around us. Heavenly Father, forgive us for Jesus’ sake, and by Your Holy Spirit turn our feet to walk in ways pleasing to You. Awaken our faith that we greet You whenever You return.
Pastor: Our Lord’s first coming was to save us—to die and rise in our place. When we receive His body and blood in the Lord’s Supper, it is for the remission of sins. When He returns, it will be to usher in the kingdom of God, in which He promised through Isaiah, “He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
OPENING HYMN  “Once He Came in Blessing”  LSB 333

KYRIE

Pastor:  In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
People:  O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.
Pastor:  For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
People:  O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.
Pastor:  For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
People:  O Lord, Branch of Jesse’s tree, have mercy.
Pastor:  For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
People:  O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.
Pastor:  Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
People:  Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH  Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 24:42

Pastor:  Isaiah wrote, “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

HYMN  “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  LSB 357  (Verse 7)

Pastor:  Jesus warned, “Stay awake, for you do not know on what day Your Lord is coming.”
Let us pray.
O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:
People:  Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

(The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit during the singing of the following stanza.)

HYMN  “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  LSB 357  (Verse 1)

SALUTATION

Pastor:  The Lord be with you.
People:  And also with you.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,
People: that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance;
Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 2:1–5
(In the kingdom of God, we will learn to walk in the way of the Lord; it will be a time of peace.)

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:
In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.
Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;
People: righteous and having salvation.
Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
People: From the house of the Lord we bless You.

EPISTLE: Romans 13:11–14
(Paul urges loving living as we await Christ’s return.)

And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the
deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE Matthew 24:37, 44

Pastor: Alleluia. As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
People: Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36–44
(Jesus warns against not being alert for His return.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” LSB 348

SERMON Pastor John Larson

CREED (The Second Article—Small Catechism) Text found in the Hymnal, p. 322.
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
(Spoken responses are from the hymn, LSB 350, verses 1 and 4)

Pastor: As we wait for our Lord’s return, let us pray for all people in their various needs and for the Church, here and around the world.

For any among us and all others who await freedom from the consequences of their past mistakes, from the injustices of their societies, and from their own worldly passions, that God would surround them with people of faith to apply the gracious news of God’s forgiveness, love, and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!

Pastor: For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, wherever people await an end to discord with their neighbors and calm across their borders, that God would use people in positions of power to order society at home and work for peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.

Pastor: For people still waiting to hear and understand the Gospel, that God would inspire artists and craftspeople, musicians and poets to creatively carry the news of Christ’s advent in history, His presence with us now, and His promised return, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Pastor: For people who cry out to God, awaiting relief from long-term ills or sudden crises of health, seeking an end to unemployment and financial woes, or not knowing where to turn for help, [including . . . ], let us pray to the Lord.

People: Hail! Hosanna, David’s Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!

Pastor: …additional petitions may be added here…, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation.

Pastor: For ourselves and everyone who eagerly await the return of our Savior, whose kingdom shall never end, let us pray to the Lord.

People: That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Pastor: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.
OFFERING

Sent From Heaven

Words by Edward Geisler
Music by Theodore Beck
arranged by Edward Geisler

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

※ SACRAMENT ※

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
People: And also with you. [Colossians 3:1]
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord. [Psalm 136]
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who entered human history as one of us, who suffered, died, and rose again to secure for us eternal salvation, and who has promised to return to usher us into His eternal kingdom. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

ADVENT SANCTUS


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER  Matthew 6:9–13  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.
ADVENT AGNUS DEI

O Christ, the Holy Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

VENI EMMANUEL
French, 15th cent.

O Christ, the holy Lamb of God, Who takes away the
whole world’s sin, Have mercy on us now, we pray,

And grant Your heav’n-ly peace within. Re-joice! Re-joice!

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“The Advent of Our King” LSB 331
“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” LSB 336
“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring” LSB 353

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION Matthew 24:42

Pastor: Jesus said, “Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”


Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Savior of the Nations, Come” LSB 332
(Verses 1-5, 7)

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS
DISMISSAL

Pastor:    Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
People:   Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come”    Paul Manz

PREPARE the Way
COME, LORD JESUS!
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder

ORGAN ASSISTANT
Gwen Geisler

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
Diana Gaide

YOUTH BAND
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER
8:00 Elder of the Day
10:30 Elder of the Day

LECTOR
8:00 Scott Luethy
10:30 Margo Pasha

ACOLYTE
8:00 Gabe Gutierrez
10:30 Nolan Pierce

USHERS
8:00 Larry Nisbet, Members of the Congregation
10:30 Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER
10:30 Margo Pasha

ALTAR GUILD
Phyllis McConnell, Gloria Mielke, Charmaine Rohde

FLOWERS
Scott Niederbrach, in loving memory of his parents.

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