

First Sunday in Advent- November 30, 2025 PAX

Prepare the Way of the Lord

As We Gather

Today is not only the First Sunday in Advent but also the commemoration of St. Andrew, whose day governs the start of Advent. In this way, Andrew continues to point to Christ as we begin a new Church Year. How odd it is, then, that the Gospel for the First Sunday in Advent is the same as the Gospel for Palm Sunday! This reminds us that Jesus came for the cross and empty tomb, and this is the only Gospel that can save us from sin and death. The cry of Advent is “prepare the way of the Lord.” We will echo the words of John the Baptist, heralding Christ’s coming. We will join in the chant of the crowd: “Hosanna to the Son of David!” (Matthew 21:9). We will hear Him speak to us through the voice of His Word. We will partake of His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all sin. In all our preparations, we acclaim Him as Lord, through faith, and receive Him and all His benefits. Thus we begin this season of the church year with a simple cross processional to honor and reflect upon this multifaceted idea of Christ’s coming. Just as we ended the last service of the church year last week with a simple cross recessional to reflect on the idea that Christ goes before us to prepare a place for us in heaven, this week we reflect on Christ’s coming, as the word “Advent” means coming, in both His incarnation at Christmas time and His long awaited return in glory on the Last Day.

“The King is Coming”

Make a way for, make a way for,
Make a way for the King, the King is coming

Oh... Oh... Oh...

Empty hearts are filling up, Wicked ways are coming undone
Every eye is looking out for You, City lights are burning out
Freedom's song is ringing loud, Dead men waking up to the sound of You
And all our hearts can sing, All our hearts can sing

CHORUS

Make a way for, Make a way for,
Make a way for the King, The King is coming
Make a way for, Make a way for,
Make a way for the King, The King is coming

Split the sky with your glory, Bring to life an awakening
Burn away everything that's not for You
Hear our voices crying out

We won't stop 'til heaven's come down
We won't stop 'til every knee bows to You
And all our hearts will sing, And all our hearts will sing is (CHORUS)

Open up the doors, Open up the doors
Open up the doors, Our King is coming
Open up the doors, Open up the doors
Lift your eyes to see, Our King is coming (CHORUS)

Our King is coming, Our King is coming.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P** Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P** The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. We hear again the first promise and prophesy made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." The Lord has kept His Word through the mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come.
- C** **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**
- P** Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist: "Our soul waits for the Lord;
C **He is our help and our shield.**
- P** For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.
C **Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You."**

The first Advent candle is lit.

Confession and Absolution

Romans 13:12; Philippians 1:6

- P** As we begin the Advent season—a time of preparation for the coming of our Savior and a time of pondering God's great love for us given in His Son—we also prepare ourselves to come before Him in humility and with honesty. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- C** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** The prophet Jeremiah proclaims, “The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made. . . . And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”
- C** We confess we have not rightly rejoiced in the promises that the Lord made and fulfilled and have instead found our fulfillment in the temporal things of our lives and this world. We have sought our own rightness instead of the Lord’s righteousness. Forgive us.
- P** Paul prays, “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, . . . so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus.”
- C** We confess our hearts are full of blame and unholiness. Our love has been misguided and our actions have been self-serving. We have not loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- C** Amen.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection 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.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
³and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go the law,

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

Epistle

Romans 13:8–14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:1–11

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Children's Message

“Joyful (The One Who Saves)”

Verse 1

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts untold like flowers before You, op'ning to the sun above.

Verse 2

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness. Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of eternal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Chorus:

You are the One Who saves. You are the One who saves.
You are the One Whose hands lift us from the grave.
You are the Light of Life, the Everlasting Day.
You are the One Who takes all our sins away.

Verse 3

You are the giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest.
Fountain of the joy of living, ocean depths of happy rest.

Chorus

You are the One Who saves. You are the One who saves.
You are the One Whose hands lift us from the grave.
You are the Light of Life, the Everlasting Day.
You are the One Who takes all our sins away.

Bridge

Jesus, You are my rescue. Jesus, You are my rescue.
I give You everything I am. (x4)

Verse 4

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest.
Fountain of the joy of living, ocean depths of happy rest.

Chorus

You are the One Who saves. You are the One who saves.
You are the One Whose hands lift us from the grave.
You are the Light of Life, the Everlasting Day.
You are the One Who takes all our sins away.
You are the One Who takes all our sins away.

Sermon

Pastor Jacob Tuma

Creed

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.**

Offering

“Hosanna”

I see the King of glory coming on the clouds with fire.
The whole earth shakes, the whole earth shakes.
I see His love and mercy washing over all our sin.
The people sing, the people sing.

Chorus

*Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.*

I see a generation rising up to take their place with selfless faith, with selfless faith.
I see a near revival stirring as we pray and seek.
We're on our knees, we're on our knees.(Chorus)

Heal my heart and make it clean,
open up my eyes to the things unseen.

Show me how to love like You have loved me.
Break my heart for what breaks Yours,
everything I am, for Your Kingdom's cause.
As I walk from earth into eternity.

Chorus X2

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayers of the Church

P ..let us pray to the Lord

C Lord have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

P 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.
C Amen.

“Glorious Day”

Verse 1

One day when heaven was filled with His praises
One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men my example is He
The Word became flesh and the light shined among us

His glory revealed

Chorus

Living He loved me, dying He saved me
Buried He carried my sins far away
Rising He justified freely forever
One day He's coming, O glorious day
O glorious day

Verse 2

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain
One day they nailed Him to die on the tree
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected
Bearing our sins my Redeemer is He
The hand that healed nations, stretched out on a tree
And took the nails from me (chorus)

Verse 3

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer
One day the stone rolled away from the door
Then He arose o'er death He had conquered
Now is ascended my Lord evermore
Death could not hold Him, the grave could not keep Him
From rising again (chorus)

Bridge

One day the trumpet will sound for His coming
One day the skies with His glories will shine
Wonderful day my beloved ones bringing
My Savior Jesus is mine (chorus)

Glorious Day. O Glorious Day

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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