

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

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Advent Midweek Service (Wed) – 7 PM

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Jeremiah 33:14–15; Luke 21:27, 33, adapt.*

L: The LORD says, “I will fulfill the promise I made to the houses of Israel and Judah.”

C: We thank You, O Lord!

L: The LORD says, “My righteous Branch will cause justice and righteousness
to spring up.”

C: We adore You, O Lord!

L: The LORD says, “You will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud
with power and great glory.”

C: We praise You, O Lord!

L: The LORD says, “Heaven and earth will pass away,
but My words will never pass away.”

C: We worship You, O Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One Advent candle is lit.

L: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

L: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

L: Let us pray: Almighty and most merciful Father,

**C: we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin.**

**Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes,
our refusal to relieve the suffering of others,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.**

**Help us to change our way of life
so that we may desire what is good,
love what you love,
and do what you command,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GRACE 1 John 4:9-10

P: “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” Friends in Christ, believe the Good News: Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, and Christ forgives us and lives for us. May this love dwell in our hearts that we may live for Him and wait expectantly for the Day of His Coming; in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

“God is For Us”

City Alight (video)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection

C: we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins

L: and saved by Your mighty deliverance;
C: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM James Preston Martin

James (Preston) is the son of James (David) and Michelle Martin. Standing up as Godparents for James is Michael Palovcsik and Deena Jordan.

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.

P: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving His life on the cross.

At our baptism, and for **James** today, Jesus clothes us with the righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer.

But Satan is a deceiver! His goal is to kill, steal and destroy us as God's people. We live by faith that what God promises us remains totally secure, even if we can't always see the results! We have been redeemed by the cross and resurrection of Jesus. We have been marked and sealed for the day of redemption by the Holy Spirit. God has called us by name! We are His! That's GOD'S promise!

But what should we do when our sinful nature (which still clings to us) shows its ugly head? We mustn't give in to it. Baptism means that the sinful nature should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. Why? Because God promised us that as we drown the old nature, a new person will daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever. WE ARE BAPTIZED into Christ! And that means His Victory is our victory!

In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in His promise, you have brought **James** to be baptized. Jesus told us, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy and peace to little children. By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

James , receive the sign of the ✠ cross upon your head and heart, to mark you as a redeemed child of God.

James , I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

THE LIGHT

P: Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the World. Live always by the light of Christ, and be ever mindful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

This exhortation is to Parents and Sponsors but it is also to all who are baptized into Christ:

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and God-Parents, to assist in whatever manner possible so that (**James**) may remain a child of God until He calls him heavenward. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer, “Yes, as God gives me strength.”

Let us pray:

Merciful Father in heaven, we thank You for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Help us all to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on (**James**) and grant him a rich measure of Your Spirit that *he* may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joy of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(You may be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 33:14–16*

(The prophet Jeremiah foresees a day when God would come to bring righteousness to His people.)

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 3:9–13* (Paul reminds us that God can cause us to abound in love for one another as we await the coming of the Lord.)

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

L: Alleluia! Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

L: Behold, your king is coming to you;

C: righteous and having salvation.

L: Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: From the house of the Lord we bless you. Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:25–36

(The kingdom of God is near.)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 331 “The Advent of Our King”

The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on To set His servants free.

O Zion’s daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a gain
And His true members all unite With Him in heav’n to reign.

Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity

SERMON "Will The Day of the Lord be a Trap or Your Deliverance?"

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLES' CREED *stand*

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

L: O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of Your Holy Church to yearn for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in justice and righteousness, and all creation will be restored. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

- L: O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of all nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. Lord, in Your mercy,**
- C: hear our prayer.**
- L: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially our brother in Christ Mark Witkowski*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. Lord, in Your mercy,**
- C: hear our prayer.**
- L: O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. Lord, in Your mercy,**
- C: hear our prayer.**
- L: O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. Lord, in Your mercy,**
- C: hear our prayer.**
- L: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Thank You Lord for the faith that sustained Martha Powell during her 92 years. Comfort my cousins Ken and Fred and their families who mourn their mother's passing. Be with the Matt and Tami Martin as they grieve the loss of Matt's stepfather, Harry Kloeber who also entered into glory this past week. Our Hope is in You Lord Jesus, and in Your promise of our resurrection to life eternal. Bring us together on that great and glorious day to come, and until then give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,**
- C: hear our prayer.**

L: Heavenly Father, You knew us before we were born. You created us and we are Yours! Because of Your great love for us every birthday reminds us of Your great mercies toward us. For that we reason we praise You for Chris Rust, Georgia Trefftz, T.T. Maxheimer, Cheryl Krantz, and Nicholas Sherman who celebrate their birthdays this week. Abide with them all their days. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Heavenly Bridegroom of the Church, we thank also this week for the anniversary celebration of Greg and Angie Conrad. We thank you for journeying with them. Thank you for making them strong in faith and committed to their marriage vows. Keep them ever close to Your heart. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

L: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayers we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord who taught and enables us to pray saying:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...,

BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24–26*

L: 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 with all His saints.

L: 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.

HYMN No. 670 **“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”**

Ye watchers and ye holy ones, Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
Raise the glad strain: “Alleluia!”
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow’rs, Virtues, archangels, angels’ choirs:
“Alleluia, alleluia!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O higher than the cherubim, More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises: “Alleluia!”
Thou bearer of the eternal Word, Most gracious, magnify the Lord:
“Alleluia, alleluia!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Respond, ye souls in endless rest, Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:

“Alleluia, alleluia!”

Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong, All saints triumphant, raise the song:

“Alleluia, alleluia!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing, Supernal anthems echoing:

“Alleluia, alleluia!”

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One:

“Alleluia, alleluia!” Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

SENDING L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!