The First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church

Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship

Confession and Absolution

The Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

P Behold, our king is coming to us; righteous and having salvation. He is coming to save us from our sins. Therefore, let us go to our God and confess our sins knowing that,

C **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

C **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**

P Rejoice greatly and shout aloud, O people of the King, for our God hears and answers our prayers. In mercy, Almighty God has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit

C **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Service of the Word

The Gathering Hymn *LSB 340 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

L Advent is a season of waiting and expectation. It is a season of preparation. As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first coming this Christmas, we do so in the anticipation of his second coming as well.
Today we light the first candle on our wreath. This candle is the hope candle. It is a reminder to us that hope placed in the promises of God is hope well placed.
Just as God kept his promise that he would send our Emmanuel, Jesus, to save us from sin, death, and the devil, so we look for him to keep his promise to return and to make all things new.
We light this candle as a reminder to us of the hope that we have in Jesus.

[the first candle is lit]

L Let us pray. Lord God, we thank you for the hope that you give us in your son, Jesus. Let us always find comfort, courage, and strength in your promises and in knowing that you always keep them. Keep us watchful for his return and be glorified in our lives while we wait. We ask this in Jesus' name, our Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Come.**

The Kyrie

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A 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.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that your coming and flowing blessings would give us peace and hope. Let that hope fill us in this holy season so that we would carry it with us into the lives of the people around us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

The Children's Message

The Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 64:1–9 (NRSVue)*

A The Old Testament reading is from the sixty-fourth chapter of the book of Isaiah.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would 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, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome deeds that
we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From ages past no one has
heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. 5
You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we
sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all
our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us
away. 7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your

face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. [8] Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. [9] Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

The Psalm *Psalm 80:1–7 (NRSV)*

L Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
C **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**
L Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
C **O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**
L You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.
C **You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**
L Restore us, O God of hosts;
C **let your face shine, that we may be saved.**
L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Epistle Reading *1 Corinthians 1:3–9 (NRSVue)*

A The Epistle reading is from the first chapter of the book of 1 Corinthians.

[3] 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 has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5] for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—[6] just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—[7] so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8] He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The Gradual for Advent

L 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 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
C **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

The Gospel Acclamation

C **Halle, halle, halle_lujah!**
Halle, halle, halle_lujah!
Halle, halle, halle_lujah!
Hallelujah! Halle_lujah!

Text: arr. Mark Sedio
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The Verse

P Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates!
C **And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel *Mark 13:24–37 (NRSVue)*

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

24 "But in those days, after that suffering, 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 "Then they will see
'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather
the 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 forth 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 tell you,
this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass
away, but my words will not pass away. 32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in
heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, 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 slaves in charge, each with his
work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else
he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Hymn of the Day *LSB 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.

2 Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
Text: Public domain

The Apostles' Creed

L We make confession of our faith together in the words of the 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.

The Prayer of the Church

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

P Visiting God, as your people of old waited for the coming of your son, so we too are waiting for him to come back. Through your Holy Spirit, prepare us for his return, and enable us to boldly proclaim with our lives and words that your kingdom has come among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Gracious Lord, sustain Your saints through all the trials and tribulations of life. As we enter another Church Year, encourage the preachers of Your Word and all who hear, that the testimony about Christ may be confirmed among us as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give boldness and faithfulness to *Name,* our Synod president; *Name,* our district president; *Name,* our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. Renew the faith and quicken the love of all Christians, that we may be enriched in all speech and knowledge. Give all your people joy and zeal for living as your disciples who join you in your work in this world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Almighty God, behold our nation and its leaders and protect our armed forces, taking them under Your care and blessing Allow justice, mercy, peace, and compassion to grow and increase in us, among us, and through us. And heal our world from the evils of injustice, prejudice, inequality, and hatred. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Visit us in Your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow and the dying from their fear *[we especially lift up to you those we love who need your healing and care, that we name before you now, out loud or in our hearts_____].* May all who cry to You receive grace according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Merciful Lord, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, entered Jerusalem to shouts and cheers of joy. Grant that we may be stirred by the Word and Sacraments to rejoice anew, now and at His second advent. Work through your means of grace to strengthen our faith and to increase our love and service to you, to one another, and to our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Offering

C **Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,**
"Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."
Time to share our gifts and say,
"Thank you Lord for each new day."

The Offertory Prayer

L O Emmanuel, You come to us to give forgiveness and life with You. All that we have is a gift from You and signs of Your love and care. Grant that we would faithfully and joyfully use what You have entrusted to us to join You in the work that You are doing in this place. Accept the offerings that we give in the various ways that we give them throughout the week, as part of our work of joining You in Your work. Increase and grow our trust in You through the giving of our offerings. Be glorified in the giving of them as we give them in thanksgiving and with gratitude for all Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name we pray,

C **Amen.**

The Offertory

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

The Service of the Sacrament

The Preface

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

The Proper Preface

P 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling all to repentance that they would know the joy of living life with Jesus, and have the hope of being with him when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

The Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Lord's Prayer

P God, remember us in your love 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.**

The Pax Domini

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

The Agnus Dei

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn *LSB 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

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.

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

Distribution Hymn *LSB 331 The Advent of Our King*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Text: Public domain

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✢ in peace.

C **Amen.**

The Nunc Dimittis

C **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;**
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Benedicamus

L The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

L Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

L As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service.
We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.
C **Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.**

L We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.
C **Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.**

L We have received the gifts of God given in Holy Communion.
C **As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.**

L As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and who engage in service.
C **We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.**

P As you go, receive the blessing of our God:
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.**

The Sending Hymn *LSB 343 Prepare the Royal Highway*

1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

ref Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!

2 God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
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