

First Sunday in Advent

Prelude

Nun komm, der heiden Heiland, BWV 659—J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn

332 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.
Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.
God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.
From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.
Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

Confession of Sins

please stand pages 184-185

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Introit

please remain standing Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion—K. Kosche

Choir sings: Rejoice, rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. (Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26)

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.

please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

[Isaiah declares:] Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence—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! When You did awesome things that we did not look for, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence. 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. 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? 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. 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.

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. 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 Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

[St. Paul writes:] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.

Verse of the Day

please remain seated Let Light Shine Out of Darkness—J. Behnke

Choir sings: Let light shine out of darkness. What we proclaim is not our own, but Jesus Christ. Let light shine in us, O Lord, in us, O Lord, in us, through Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:5-6)

Gospel Reading

please stand Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus says:] "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 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.

"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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that He is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

G I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

355 *O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide*

Congregation: O Savior, rend the heavens wide; Come down, come down with mighty stride;
 Unlock the gates, the doors break down; Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

Choir: O Father, light from heaven send; As morning dew, O Son, descend.
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring: To Jacob's line rain down the King.

Congregation: O earth, in flow'ring bud be seen; Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
 Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare, Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.

Choir: O Fount of hope, how long, how long? When will You come with comfort strong?
 O come, O come, Your throne forego; Console us in our vale of woe.

Congregation: O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
 O Sun, arise; without Your light We grope in gloom and dark of night.

Choir: Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
 O come, lead us with mighty hand From exile to our promised land.

Congregation: There shall we all our praises bring And sing to You, our Savior King;
 There shall we laud You and adore Forever and evermore.

Sermon

Wait For It...

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Hymn of Response

350 stanzas 1-2 *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!
 Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
 Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
 Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.
 Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!

Prayer of the Church

please stand

Service of the Sacrament

pages 194-198

P The Lord be with you.

G (sung) And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

G (sung) We lift them unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G (sung) It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

C (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

P 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.

C (sung) For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ...

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C (sung) Amen.

C(sung) O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution of the Sacrament

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 again
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.

336 stanzas 1-3 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, Shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshipers.

With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars!

339 *Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors*

Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors, And weep no more!

O Zion's daughter, sing, To greet your coming King;

Now wave the victor's palm And sing the ancient psalm:

"Lift up your heads, you everlasting gates!" Your King awaits!

Who is this King of great and glorious fame? What is His name?

Lord God of Sabaoth, Of whom the prophets wrote,

Whose chosen, humble steed Declares Him king indeed!

Hosanna, Lord! Messiah, come and save From sin and grave.

Who may ascend Mount Zion's holy hill To do God's will?

The One whose unstained hands Can meet the Law's demands,

Whose purity within Reveals One free from sin.

Come, praise this King who claims the cross as throne— Praise Him alone!

"Worthy is Christ!" The Lamb who once was slain Now lives to reign.

He rules our earthly ways As Lord of Ancient Days—

O join the endless song Sung by the ransomed throng:

"Worthy is Christ!" The Lamb be praised again! Amen! Amen!

Communion Blessing

please stand

Nunc Dimittis

page 199-200

- C (sung)** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

page 201

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C (sung) and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us bless pray...now and forever.

C (sung) Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus

page 201-202

P The Lord be with you.

C (sung) And with thy spirit.

P Bless we the Lord.

C (sung) Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C (sung) Amen, amen, amen.

Closing Hymn

336 stanza 4 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Yea, amen, let all adore Thee, High on Thine eternal throne;

Savior, take the pow'r and glory, Claim the kingdom as Thine own.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

Wait For It...—1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Waiting is h_____, but waiting can be g_____ for us.

Christians are eagerly waiting and yearning for “the r_____ of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

While we wait, the grace of God s_____ us to the end.

God is f_____ !

Wednesday Advent Service at 4:45 PM and 7 PM

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

The Angel Gabriel—Luke 1:5-38

Next Sunday's Readings—Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

LIVING THE SERMON...The Scriptures often speak of “waiting for the Lord.” What does it mean to wait for the Lord? why is it difficult to wait for the Lord? How does the Lord help and strengthen us as we wait for Him?

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH...As we begin this advent season, pray that God would bless you as you prepare to celebrate your Savior's birth. Pray that many would hear the good news of this season and respond in faith so that they are ready and waiting for the day when Christ comes again in glory.

THE DIVINE SERVICE IN ADVENT...Today we begin a new church year. Advent and Lent are the two penitential seasons. During Advent, we focus on our need to prepare our hearts for our Savior's coming through repentance. During penitential seasons portions of the liturgy are omitted. During Advent, we omit the *Gloria in Excelsis* (Glory in the Highest). The *Gloria in Excelsis* begins with the words that the angels sang to the shepherds. During Advent, we refrain from singing these words, until Christmas when we join with the angels rejoicing in our Savior's birth.

Our Weekly Schedule

Worship Services

Sunday Worship Services at 8 and 10:45 AM

Wednesday Worship Service at 4:45 PM

Wednesday Advent Service at 7 PM

Online Service posted by Thursday mornings at stpaulcolumbus.org

Radio worship service Sundays at 8:30 AM on 1010 AM and 98.1 FM

Holy Communion Offered

All Sunday and Wednesday 4:45 PM Services

By appointment at church or your house by contacting one of the pastors

Christian Education

Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study* Sundays at 9:30 AM

Note: No Sunday School on December 13th or 20th

Bible Study Wednesdays at 9 AM and 6 PM

*Adult Bible Study is live-streamed on the St. Paul YouTube Channel each Sunday at 9:30 AM

Holiday Worship Schedule

Weekly Schedule:

Wednesdays at 4:45 PM (COVID-sensitive) with Communion

All Wednesday services at 4:45 PM are livestreamed

Sundays at 8 and 10:45 AM with Communion

with the exception of Sundays, December 13 and 20 when services will be 8, 9:30, and 11.

Thanksgiving Eve—Wednesday, November 25

4:45 PM Thanksgiving Service with Communion (COVID-sensitive)

7 PM Thanksgiving Service with Communion

Wednesdays in Advent—December 2, 9, 16 and 23

4:45 PM Worship Service with Communion (COVID-sensitive)

7 PM Advent Service (no Communion)

Sunday, December 13—Advent Service of Song

Services at 8, 9:30, and 11 with all adult and youth choirs participating

No fellowship hour or Sunday School

Saturday, December 19—Las Posadas

5 PM Service with fiesta to follow

Sunday, December 20—Children's Christmas Service (No fellowship hour or Sunday School)

8 AM Divine Service with Holy Communion

9:30 and 11 AM Children's Christmas Service

Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve

4:30 PM Candlelight Service (COVID-sensitive; livestreamed); Carol sing at 4:15 PM

6 PM Candlelight Service (Choristers); Carol sing at 5:45 PM

7:30 PM Candlelight Service (Jr. Choir); Carol sing at 7:15 PM

+ The 4:30, 6, and 7:30 PM services are identical with the exception of the choirs

6 PM Spanish Candlelight and Communion Service in the fellowship room

11 PM Candlelight and Communion Service (Sr. Choir); Carol sing at 10:45 PM (livestreamed)

Friday, December 25—Christmas Day

10 AM Festival Communion Service (livestreamed)

Thursday, December 31—New Year's Eve

7 PM Communion Service (livestreamed)

Notes:

- A COVID-sensitive service is offered every Wednesday at 4:45 PM and on Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM. All are welcome to attend these services. Since those in attendance are at higher risk, please be respectful of your brothers and sisters in Christ and spread out as much as possible and consider wearing a mask for the entire service.
- The 4:30, 6, and 7:30 services on Christmas Eve will be identical services. The choirs that will be singing at each service are listed above. If your family custom is to attend the early Christmas Eve service (typically the service is at 6:30 PM), please consider attending the 7:30 PM service so we can spread out the attendance between the services. You may also want to consider attending the 11 PM service and/or Christmas Day services as these services typically have around 100 people in attendance. We have also included which choir will be singing at each service so that families can plan accordingly.