

# 1st Sunday Of Advent "Watch"

## AS WE GATHER

Advent is a time of anticipation! We are anticipating the joy of celebrating the Savior's birth. At the same time, we also anticipate and **Keep Watch** for the Day of His Second Coming, when the Lord comes to rescue us from sin and death!



## OPENING HYMN - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev -'ry long-ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.  
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven  
Text and tune: Public domain

## + CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, Advent has come upon us and reminds us that the King is coming. Before we can meet Him, we need to be cleansed from our sin and restored by His grace. So now we come at His invitation to receive His promised grace.

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

Pastor: Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. *Zech. 9:9*

**People: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

Pastor: O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

**People: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame.** *Psalm 25:1-3*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy 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.

**People: Amen.**

## + LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH +

**HYMN - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

*LSB 357, v. 1-3*

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Pastor: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

**People: Our God comes; He does not keep silence.**

*Psalm 50:2-3a*

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord;

**People: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

*Isaiah 40:3*

Pastor: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

**People: Let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.**

*Isaiah 45:8*

*(The First Candle on the Advent Wreath, the Prophecy Candle is lit during the singing of the hymn. The Prophecy Candle reminds us that God kept all of His promises through the prophets of old in the birth of the Messiah, Jesus.)*

**2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain**

**3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
Text: Public domain

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 2:1-5*

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>It 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, <sup>3</sup>and 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. <sup>4</sup>He 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. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM**

*Psalm 122*

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

<sup>2</sup>**Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you!**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!”

<sup>8</sup>**For my brothers and companions’ sake I will say, “Peace be within you!”**

<sup>9</sup>For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

**Glory be 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 EPISTLE

*Romans 13:11-14*

<sup>11</sup>Besides 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. <sup>12</sup>The 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. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### ALLELUIA AND VERSE

*LSB 156*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 24:36-44*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>36</sup>[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup>As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup>Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**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.**

**SERMON HYMN - Savior of the Nations Come**

LSB 332, v. 1-4



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

**THE SERMON**

**THE OFFERING** (*Offering plates are located in the back of the church.*)

**THE DEDICATION OF THE ADVENT WREATH & NATIVITY SCENE**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. That we may not be distracted or grow complacent but keep watch and be ready for the Lord when He returns to us in His glory. Lord, in Your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: That the Lord would guide and watch over His Church and all who serve her—pastors, missionaries, and all church workers. Lord, in Your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: That the Lord would bless our every effort to share the good news of Jesus that all the elect may hear and heed His voice calling and gathering His people, let us pray. Lord, in Your mercy;

Pastor: That the sick and suffering may find healing and relief and that the dying and the grieving may know His comfort and peace [especially...]. Lord, in Your mercy;

**People: Hear our prayer.**

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

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

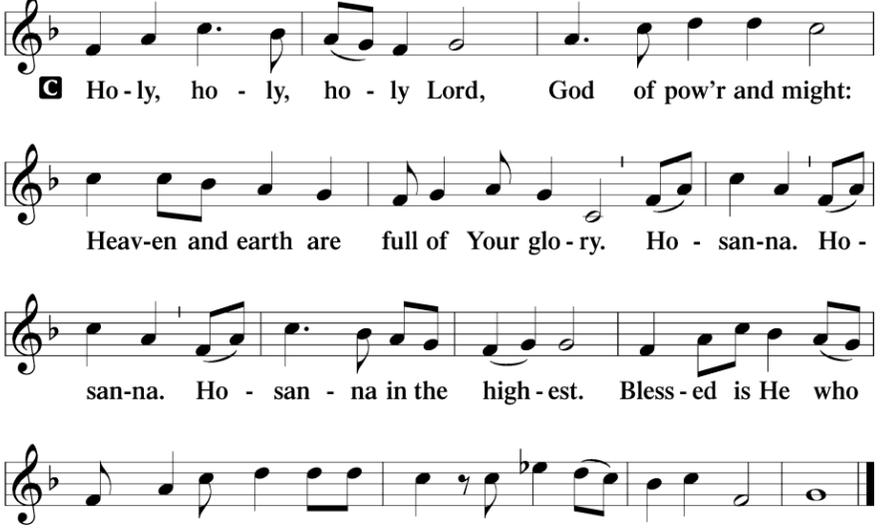
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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, 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 sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed 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 singing:

## SANCTUS

LSB 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

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."

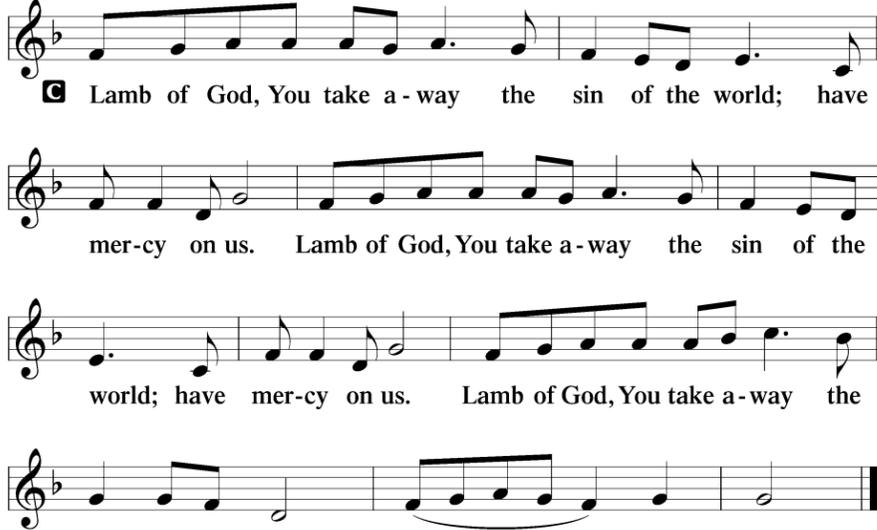
## PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN - The Advent of Our King**

LSB 331



1 The ad-vent of our King Our prayers must now em-ploy,  
 2 The ev-er-last-ing Son In-car-nate deigns to be,  
 3 O Zi-on's daugh-ter, rise To meet your low-ly King,  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a-gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho-ly joy.  
 Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.  
 Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem-bers all u-nite 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.**

Tune and text: Public domain

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN - Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates** LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye might-y gates! Be-hold, the  
 2 A righ-teous Help-er comes to thee; His char-iot  
 3 How blest the land, the cit-y blest, Where Christ the  
 4 Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; Make it a  
 5 Re-deem-er, come and o-pen wide My heart to



King of glo-ry waits. The King of kings is draw-ing  
 is hu-mil-i-ty, His king-ly crown is ho-li-  
 rul-er is con-fessed! O peace-ful hearts and hap-py  
 tem-ple set a-part From earth-ly use for heav'n's em-  
 Thee; here, Lord, a-bide! O en-ter with Thy grace di-



near; The Sav-ior of the world is here. Life and sal-  
 ness, His scep-ter, pit-y in dis-tress. The end of  
 homes To whom this King in tri-umph comes! The cloud-less  
 ploy, A-dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
 vine; Thy face of mer-cy on me shine. Thy Ho-ly



va-tion He doth bring; There-fore re-joice and glad-ly sing.  
 all our woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings.  
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo-ple free.  
 Sov-'reign en-ter in And new and no-bler life be-gin.  
 Spir-it guide us on Un-til our glo-rious goal is won.



To God the Fa-ther raise Your joy-ful songs of praise.  
 To Christ the Sav-ior raise Your grate-ful hymns of praise.  
 To God the Spir-it raise Your hap-py shouts of praise.  
 To God a-lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
 E-ter-nal praise and fame We of-fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weiszel, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
 Tune: August Lemke, 1820-1913  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE – The Nunc Dimittis**

LSB 165

Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to reveal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN - Once In Royal David's City**

LSB 376

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the  
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in  
ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like  
was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.  
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Acknowledgments**

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**Song Leaders:**      **Sat: Joel Chapman**  
                                 **Sun: Danielle Mueller**

# *Special Services* *During December*

- Sun. Dec. 18      4:00 PM      *Children's Christmas Program*
- Sat. Dec. 24      4:00 & 7:00      *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*
- Sun. Dec. 25      10:00 AM      *Christmas Day Service*
- Sat. Dec. 31      5:30 PM      *New Year's Service*
- Sat. Jan. 1      10:00 AM      *New Year's Service*

