

**† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 29, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

Helmut Wacha

**INVOCATION and CONFESSION**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God.

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom so secrets are hid:

**C** **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**P** Give glory to the coming King.

**C** **O come, let us worship Him.**

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness and illumine Your Church.

**C** **We wait for You in hope.**

*(The first candle is lit)*

**ADVENT CANTICLE**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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.

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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

**C 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. Amen.**

## EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

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

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to his disciples:] <sup>24</sup>“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

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.

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!

**SERMON**

Rev. Scott Geminn

**THE 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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**P** God of power and might, come quickly to this weary world and hear our prayers for everyone in need.

**P** We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to Your call for justice, peace, and healing. Open our eyes to the needs of the world as You draw near. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for people who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Send Your healing hope to all in need, especially those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now... (PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who have died. Comfort the bereaved, and sustain all who still yearn for the completion of Your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught 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.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

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.

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.

**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.**

**P** Go in peace to serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Lo! He Comes

Benjamin Culli

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**Special thanks to our additional participant in today’s service:**

**Lector** Katie Vogt



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