



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
**December 3, 2023**

**Opening Hymn #73 (2<sup>nd</sup> tune)**  
***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,  
Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:  
We praise Thee, Father, now,  
Creator, wise art Thou!
2. A Helper just He 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;  
Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:  
We praise Thee, Savior, now,  
Mighty in deed art Thou!
3. O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless Sun of joy He is,  
Who bringeth pure delight and bliss.

We praise Thee, Spirit, now,  
Our Comforter art Thou!

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

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me Thy inner presence feel,  
Thy grace and love in me reveal;  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
We offer to Thy name.

### **Invocation**

**P:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C: Amen**

### **Kyrie – sing**

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

## **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

### **Advent 1**

**P:** *We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.*

**C:** **We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.**

**P:** *We hear his call to watch.*

**C:** **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

**P:** *Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.*

**C:** **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*The Prophecy Candle, (period of waiting) is lit. [Gen. 3:1-15]*

(To the Tune of “Away in a Manger”)

**Prepare for Christ’s coming,  
Keep watch through the night.  
We light one small candle  
And cherish the light.  
Give hope to the hopeless,  
Give comfort and peace.  
Trust in the Lord’s promise  
That darkness shall cease.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### The First Lesson – Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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? <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

### Psalm of the Day – Psalm 80

#### Antiphon - WS p. 39

**Antiphon** – *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!\*

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.**  
2 Before Ephraim and Benjamin and | Manasseh,\*  
**stir up your might and come | to save us!**  
3 Restore us, | O God;\*  
**let your face shine, that we | may be saved!**  
4 O LORD | God of hosts,\*  
**how long will you be angry with your | people's prayers?**  
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears\*  
**and given them tears to drink in | full measure.**  
6 You make us an object of contention for | our neighbors,\*  
**and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.**  
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;\*  
**let your face shine, that we | may be saved!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

***Antiphon*** - *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

### **The Second Lesson – 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 was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed 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>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **The Gospel – Mark 13:24-37**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, 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>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>“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. <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 say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. 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 servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup>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 cock crows, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup>lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P: Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

### **The Alleluia – sing**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **Confession of Faith – Nicene Creed**

**I believe in 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 shall 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 worshipped and glorified,  
Who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe 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.**

**Hymn of the Day #95**  
***Savior of the Nations, Come***

1. Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2. 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.

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child  
Of the Virgin undefiled!  
Though by all the world disowned,  
Still to be in heaven enthroned.

4. From the Father forth He came  
And returneth to the same,  
Captive leading death and hell--  
High the song of triumph swell!

5. Thou, the Father's only Son,  
Hast o'er sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;  
When shall we its glories see?

6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine,  
Glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;  
Ever be our faith thus bright.

7. Praise to God the Father sing,  
Praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be  
Ever and eternally.

**Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

**Sermon**

***The Lord Jesus Comes to Save Us***



## **Offertory**

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.

## **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

### **Prayer of the Church**

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

P: Gracious Lord, sustain Your saints to the end 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.

**<sup>1</sup> Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only hope for sinful mortals!**

P: Give boldness and faithfulness to our Synod president; our conference visitors; 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.

**Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.**

P: Heavenly Father, grant Your blessing to all marriages and keep all husbands and wives faithful to each other. Guide them as they care for the children entrusted to them. Bestow Your loving care upon all children who have suffered abuse or neglect, as well as upon all who open their homes to children in foster care.

**Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.**

P: Almighty God, behold our nation and its leaders and protect our armed forces, taking them under Your care and blessing.

**<sup>2</sup> Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.**

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 [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. May all who cry to You receive grace according to Your will.

**Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.**

P: 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.

**Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my guest divine!**

P: Gracious Father, You have made us glad to enter into Your presence to hear the good news of our Savior and receive Your gifts. Preserve Your Church against all her enemies, and lead us to walk in Your ways and to follow Your paths, that when Jesus returns in His glory we may welcome Him with glad hosannas; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **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.**

**Sermon Hymn #69 (v. 1-4)**  
*Arise, Sons of the Kingdom*

1. Arise, sons of the Kingdom!  
The King is drawing nigh;  
Arise and hail with gladness  
The Ruler from on high.  
Ye Christians, hasten forth!  
Your praise and homage bring Him  
And glad hosannas sing Him;  
Naught else your love is worth.

2. Arise, ye drooping mourners!  
The King is very near;  
Away with grief and sorrow!  
For, lo, your Help is here.  
Behold, in many a place --  
Oh, blessed consolation! --  
You find Him, your Salvation,  
Within His means of grace.

3. Arise, ye much afflicted!  
The King is not afar.  
Rejoice, ye long dejected,  
Behold the Morning Star!  
The Lord will give you joy;

Though troubles now distress you,  
With comfort He will bless you,  
E'en death will He destroy.

4. Arise, ye poor and needy!  
The King provides for you;  
He comes with succor speedy,  
With mercy ever new.  
Receive your gracious King,  
The Giver of all blessing,  
Hail Him, His name confessing,  
And glad hosannas sing.

### **The Service of the Sacrament**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P:** It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...

*(the appropriate Preface is read)*

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

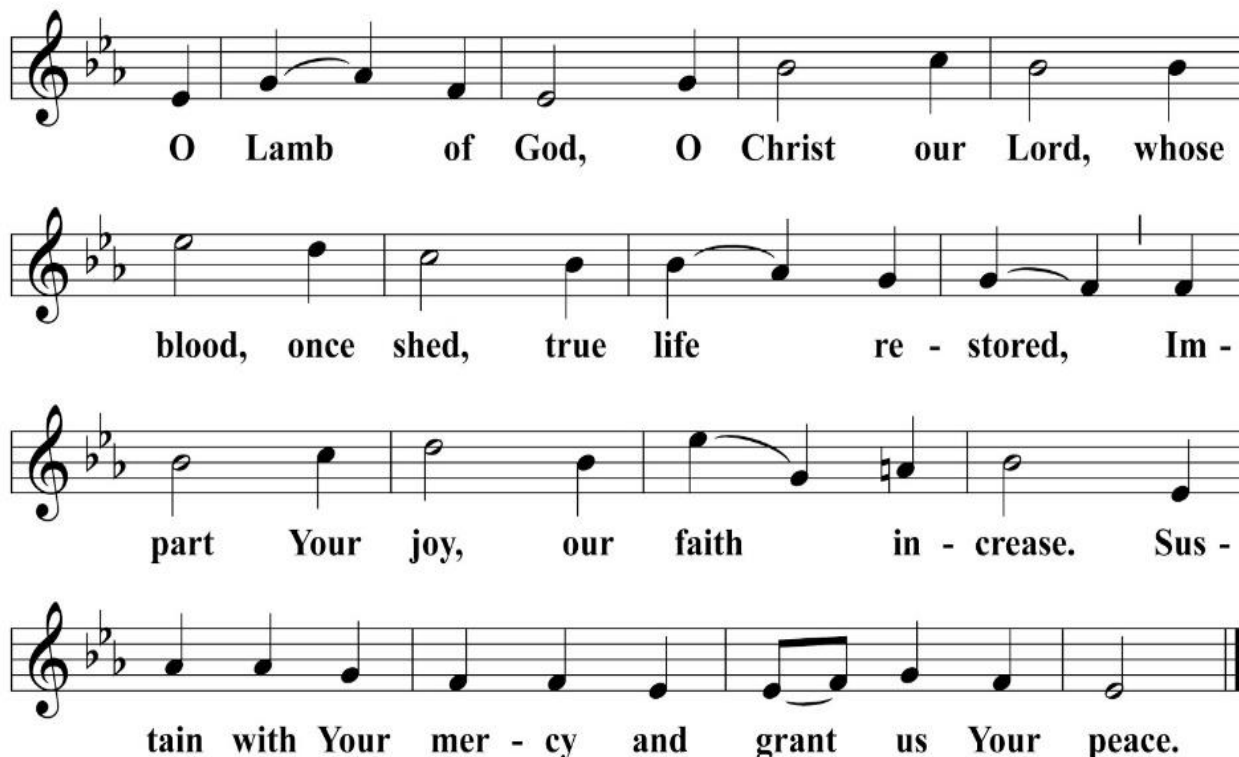
C: Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and  
earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho-  
san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly  
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose  
 blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -  
 part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -  
 tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

## Distribution

### Nune Dimittis - sing

1. O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace,  
 For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:  
 A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,  
 The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

2. All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
 All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three-in-One;  
 For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
 God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

## Thanksgiving



C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es



tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your



bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

## The 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: Amen**

## Closing Hymn #68 *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 thy lowly King,  
Nor let thy 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 heaven to reign.

5. Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The old man all be put away,  
The new man all put on.

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

## **Silent Prayer**

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