



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29, 2020

There are no surprises with Christmas. We know exactly when December 25th shall arrive. We can calculate the very minute. That is not the case with Christ's second coming. We have no idea when it will take place. It could be ten-thousand years away. It could be in the next ten minutes. But God kept his promise to send Christ the first time; therefore, we have confident faith he will keep the promise to send Christ again. Because we do not know when that will be, we must always be prepared.

✠ The Order of Service ✠

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

M: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

C: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

M: If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness,

C: **We lie and do not live by the truth.**

M: If we claim to be without sin,

C: **we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

C: **Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.**

(Silence for personal examination and confession)

ABSOLUTION

M: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God. Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

✠ The Word ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-8

¹Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!

²As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!

³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

⁵You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry.
How then can we be saved?

⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

⁷No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 13:32-37

³²“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

SERMON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

“Watchful and Ready for Christ’s Coming”

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

C: Amen.