

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 27, 2016

Worship Focus

Keep Watch, for the Lord will come again... unexpectedly.



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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

The Divine Service II

Christian Worship Supplement

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OPENING HYMN

7 - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the
3 You saints, who here in pa - tience Your cross and
4 A - rise, De - sire of na - tions; O Je - sus,



lights ap - pear; The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing,
Bride - groom near; Go forth, as he ap - proach - es,
suf - f'ring bore, Shall live and reign for - ev - er
now ap - pear, The Hope and Ex - pec - ta - tion



And dark - er night is near. The Bride - groom
With al - le - lu - ias clear. The mar - riage
When sor - row is no more. A - round the
Of ev - 'ry Chris - tian here. With hearts and



is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh. Up,
feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand. A -
throne of glo - ry; The Lamb you shall be - hold; In
hands up - lift - ed We plead, O Lord, to see The



pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry,
rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
tri - umph lay be - fore him Your shin - ing crowns of gold,
day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, aft.
Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FARDIO (76 76 D) *Hymnal and Order of Service*, Rock Island, 1901.

STAND

INVOCATION¹

Minister In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation Amen.

CONFESSION

M Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION²

M Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

¹ The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptism.

² “The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners.” (The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?). See John 20:21-23.

THE GREAT LITANY³

Prayer of Approach to God

M O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
C **Have mercy on us.**

M O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **Have mercy on us.**

M O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,
C **Have mercy on us.**

M Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,
C **Have mercy on us.**

Prayer for Deliverance

M Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses nor the offenses of our forebears. Spare us, good Lord; spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**

M From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

M From all deadly sin and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

M From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart and contempt for your Word and your will,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

M From earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire, and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

³ *The Great Litany* is the most ancient of services of the Church except for the service of Holy Communion. It expresses the fundamental needs of all people yet provides the individual an opportunity for private concentration. With its penitential character, it is not uncommon to speak the Great Litany at the beginning of the Church's preparatory seasons, such as Advent or Lent.

Prayer Recalling Christ's Saving Work

M By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom,

C Good Lord, deliver us.

M By your bloody sweat and bitter grief, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial,

C Good Lord, deliver us.

M By your mighty resurrection, your glorious ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

C Good Lord, deliver us.

M In times of trouble or prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment,

C Good Lord, deliver us.

M Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.

C Hear us, good Lord.

Prayer for the Church

M Govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to your will.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M Enlighten all ministers with true knowledge and understanding of your Word, that by their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M Bless and keep your people, that all may follow their true vocation and ministry.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M Give us hearts to love and revere you, that we may live according to your commandments.

C Hear us, good Lord.

M To all your people, give grace to receive your Word and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the fainthearted, raise up those who fall, and finally give us the victory.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

Prayer for Our Country

M Rule the hearts of your servants, the president of the United States, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection, and shield them in all dangers and adversities.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

Prayer for All People

M To all nations grant unity and peace, and to all people give clothing, food, and shelter.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach and all who learn.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show your pity on all prisoners and captives.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth and all young children, and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate and oppressed.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Heal the sick in body or mind, and give skill and compassion to all who care for them.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

M Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your Holy Word.

C **Hear us, good Lord.**

Concluding Prayer

M Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

C **Son of God, we ask you to hear us.**

M Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C **Have mercy on us.**

M Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C **Have mercy on us.**

M Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C **Grant us peace.**

M Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Christ, have mercy on us.**

M Lord, have mercy on us. 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.**

BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

Isaiah sees a different picture in chapter 2 from what he saw in chapter 1. In the last days, in the midst of the unexpected judgment, God comes with unexpected grace for his people.

ISAIAH 2:1 This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

²In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as chief among the mountains;
it will be raised above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵ Come, O house of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD.

PSALM

Psalm 18

*Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From Seasonal Psalms. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House.
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The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my de | liverer;*
my God is my rock, in whom I take | refuge.

He reached down from on high and took | hold of me;*
he rescued me from my powerful | enemy.

He brought me out into a | spacious place;*
he rescued me because he delight | ed in me.

Refrain

You, O LORD, keep my lamp | burning;*
my God turns my darkness | into light.

You save the | humble*
but bring low those whose eyes are | haughty.

You give me your shield of | victory,*
and your right hand sus | tains me.

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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON Romans 13:11-14

Understanding the present time means working and walking in love because the coming of our Lord is near. Notice the words he chooses: nearer, nearly, and almost. The certainty of Christ's coming is never in question, only his timing.

ROMANS 13:11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

M 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.**

M We hear his call to watch.

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

M Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

One advent candle is lit.



*STAND*⁴

⁴ The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.

GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

So unexpected is the coming of Christ, that neither the Church, nor the angels, nor even the Son knows the day or time. Warnings are spoken; promises are made; signs are given. But the great day will come as unexpectedly as the flood once came upon the unsuspecting world.

M The gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

MATTHEW 24:36 “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

After the Gospel:

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY⁵

2 – Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
Spir - it of our God Was the Word of
vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the
cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing
God the Son, our King, Praise to God the



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!
Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Ambrose, 340–97, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76, alt.
Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

SERMON

Isaiah 2:1-5

We Live in Unexpected Grace

STAND

⁵ The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.

NICENE CREED⁶

**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 worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian⁷ 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.

BE SEATED

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER, OFFERTORY, and OFFERING⁸

⁶ Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

⁷ The original text here reads "catholic," a word meaning "universal." The Church consists of all believers in heaven and on earth, of every time in history.

⁸ Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Come, dear Savior. We long for your appearing! Come to cheer us with your promises, as you once cheered your ancient people throughout their long night of waiting and watching.

Come to restore our hope. Rouse us from the slumber of despair; lift our hearts from petty, earthbound goals; and direct our eyes above, from where you will soon come to make all things right again.

Come and work in us a godly grief and a genuine sorrow over sin. Forgive us for the shameful way we have dishonored you and the shabby way we have dealt with one another. Through your mighty Word, stir up in us a ceaseless yearning to give ourselves to others, as you have given yourself for us.

Come also to rekindle our joy as we prepare to celebrate your first coming. Do not permit a frenzied busyness to rob us of your peace or to deprive us of times to ponder and to wonder at your Word. Set our hearts apart from the bustle and the clamor and the jostle of these days. Fill us with the quiet delight of finding you in the manger, and keep hearts and minds undisturbed by the great throng that streams by uncaring.

We pray also for those enduring great sorrow, for those undergoing spiritual trial, and for those whose restless hearts have no knowledge of your coming. Comfort, strengthen, and illumine them with the sweet peace born of your love. Keep them in the way of peace by your Holy Word.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Come quickly, dear Lord, and fill our longing eyes with the light of your coming! We wait and we keep watch. In you we put our hope. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE⁹

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

⁹ The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshippers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

M Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is good and right so to do.

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY¹⁰

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is



might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To



count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -



save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -



in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

¹⁰ *Sanctus* means *holy*. Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING¹¹

M Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

¹¹ Jesus took bread and *gave thanks* (Matthew 26:26).

WORDS OF INSTITUTION¹²

Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD¹³

John 1:29

Agnus Dei

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. A - men.

¹² As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord’s use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ’s death.

¹³ Jesus is God’s Lamb (*Agnus Dei*) of sacrifice, who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION¹⁴

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

472 - Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a -
2 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de -
3 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you
4 But while watch - ing al - so pray To the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a -
feat you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be -
tri - fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's
ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and



wares o'er - tak - en. For the foe, Well we know, Is a
tray and cheat you, Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
faith in - creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
friends to charm you Who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
nite to serve him And for - ev - er love him.

Text: Johann B. Freystein, 1671-1718, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: STRAF MICH NICHT (76 76 33 66) *Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien*, Dresden, 1694, alt.

STAND

¹⁴ The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.

SONG OF SIMEON¹⁵

Luke 2:29-32

Nunc Dimittis



1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to



as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -



car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -
ev - er three in one; For as in the be -



light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,
gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une



crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!
name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you give us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. We pray that through this precious gift of yourself you would feed our faith, nourish our hope, and strengthen our love that we might live as your people now, and as your guests forever at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

¹⁵ The *Nunc Dimittis* ("Now dismiss") is also known as "The Song of Simeon." Through God's Word and sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

BLESSING¹⁶

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.

CLOSING HYMN

9 - Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes



1 Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex -
2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall And win - try
3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new, Our sins for -
4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land; Let Sa - tan
5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer To wait for



pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised
clouds o'er - cast the sky, Your words with plea - sure
give, our foes sup - press, Our root - ed en - mi -
from his throne be hurled. Let na - tions bow to
your ap - point - ed hour, And fit us by your



light a - rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?
we re - call And know that our re - demp - tion's nigh.
ty sub - due, And crown your gos - pel with suc - cess.
your com - mand; Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.
grace to share The tri - umphs of your con - qu'ring pow'r.

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796–1877, abr., alt.

Tune: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT (LM) *Andächtige Haus-Kirche*, Nürnberg, 1676, alt.

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.

¹⁶ The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).