

+ Second Sunday in Advent +

December 5, 2021



What is Advent?

The word **Advent** means “coming.” During this time, we look forward to our Lord’s coming as a human baby at Bethlehem and also to His final coming as King at the end of time. We also remember His continual coming to His people in His Word and Sacraments.

Advent is a time of waiting, preparing, and hoping. This involves both repentance and joyful anticipation. The color for this season is royal blue – the color of royalty and hope.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord, to prepare the way for Your only Son. Help us by His coming to serve You with pure hearts and minds. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her hardship is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Praise be to You, O Christ.

Alleluia Verse

P Alleluia. Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

C Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C Glory be to You, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

He [John] said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you

with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to You, O Christ.

Message

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Prayer of the Church

P In this hectic holiday season of preparation, our Lord Jesus calls us to come away and spend time with Him in prayer. Let us approach our Father with our prayers and petitions.

Blessed Father in Heaven, as we enter into this new Church Year on this First Sunday in Advent, we ask Your blessings as we begin to relive again the events in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ that brings us life and salvation. Bless the time we spend together in this new year. Lord, in Your mercy,

C come and save Your people.

P As we look forward to Your Coming, we pray for Your Church, for all people and pastors. Keep us alert and watchful in support for one another, guard us from everything false and untrue. Lord, in Your mercy

C come and save Your people.

P Lord Jesus, we look forward to Your return when all people will bow before You. Until that glorious day, we pray for the nations and leaders of this world. Guide those in authority so that they govern wisely and provide for the good of their own people. Deal with all who use their authority to create misery and suffering. Stretch forth Your Almighty and Powerful Arm to curb the plans of all who plan evil and destruction. Lord, in Your mercy,

C come and save Your people.

P Lord, stand by those who wake or watch or weep. Give rest those who are weary. Soothe those who suffer. Come to those we know in particular need and whom we will name silently in our hearts:

P Lord Jesus, we do not know the day or the hour that You will come with great power and glory. Keep us always alert and watchful so that we may welcome You with joy. For You live and reign with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

P In all your Advent preparations, remain watchful with your eyes on Christ, whose birth in a manger is but a promise of His coming again in glory. And now may

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Maranatha! "Come, Lord! And do not delay!"

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)