

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of all time,

we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Light of Hope, Light of Peace”

Mark Patterson

See Insert

Litany (*responsively*)

During Advent, God’s promise illuminates our hope.

On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

In times of fear, we place our hope on the One who brings peace.

On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

In times of grief, we place our hope in the One who offers comfort.

On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

In times of wondering, we place our hope in the One who speaks truth.

On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

Candle Lighting

Prayer

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Prayer of the Day

(Together) **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD**Teaching Moment****Children's Sermon****First Lesson****Isaiah 2:1-5**

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Advent Carol

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

Hymn No. 436

Reading Psalm 122 (*Responsively*, Lector and People)

¹I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²**Now our feet are standing**

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built as a city

that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,**

The assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

⁵**For there are the thrones of judgment,**

the thrones of the house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

⁷**Peace be within your walls**

and quietness within your towers.

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⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.

⁹**Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”**

Second Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

(After the reading) **The Word of the Lord R/Thanks be to God**

Alleluia

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia**

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

(Spoken after the announcement) **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

(Spoken after the reading) **The Gospel of the Lord. R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Krista Zimmerman

Hymn of the Day

“The King Shall Come”

Hymn No. 260

Distribution Hymn

“O Lord, How Should I Meet You”

Hymn No. 241

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING**Benediction**

God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“My Lord, What a Morning”

Hymn No. 438

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.