



Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

+ *Psalm 24:7*

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Church Year begins by taking us to the scene of our Lord's final entry into Jerusalem that great and Holy Week. Yes, Christmas is at hand (but not quite yet here). Surely the preparations for the celebration of His incarnation, His earthly birth of the Virgin Mary, are already well under way (I say this somewhat in jest since I have yet to put up any of my decorations).

We enter this new church year already knowing *why* He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit—that by His passion, death, and resurrection we might be purchased and won from all sin, death, and the power of the devil (and that's why our Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Advent takes us forward to Holy Week).

And so we begin Advent with waiting—"eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" on the Last Day (1 Cor. 1:7 NKJV), sustained by Him in the present through the forgiveness of our sins.

We begin Advent boldly begging for the final advent of our risen Lord Jesus, His final coming to rescue and save us. Our boldness, however, is tempered with the humility of faith that says, "Nevertheless, Thy will be done."

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw

Pastor's phone: 760-679-3699

Pastor's email: pastor@gracelutheranelcentro.org

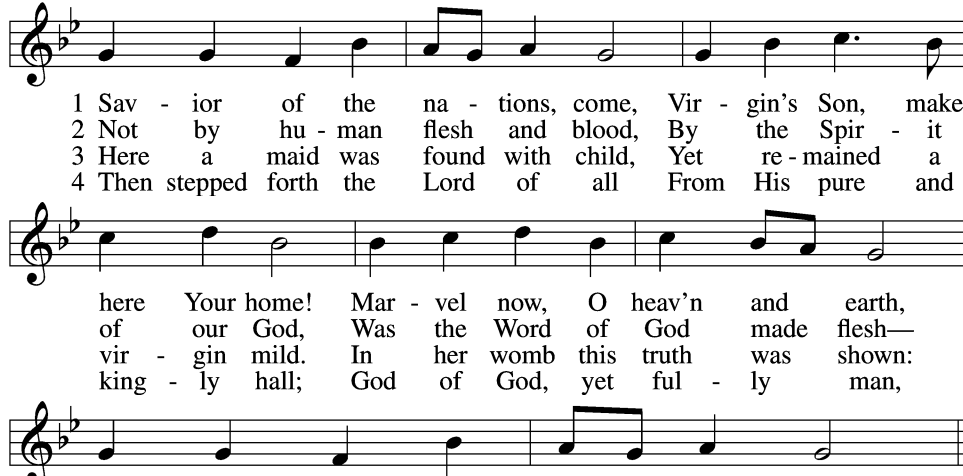


"Christ's Entry into Jerusalem" by Albrecht Dürer, 1511, Public Domain

✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION: Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332, sts. 1–4



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,

That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

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Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

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

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalms 32:5

Kneel (or remain standing) – Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 25:1-3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) Behold, your King is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

To You, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.

**O my God, in You I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.**

Indeed, none who wait for You shall be | put to shame;*
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

**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.**

The antiphon is repeated.

The Advent Candle is lit.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



☐ The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.



☐ Let us pray.

☐ Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



☐ A - men.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1–9

P The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 64.

¹Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence—
²as 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! ³When You did awesome things
that we did not look for, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence. ⁴From 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. ⁵You 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?

⁶We 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. ⁷There 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.

⁸But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work
of Your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look,
we are all Your people.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

The pastor and congregation chant responsively.



Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your King is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is He who comes in the name | of the LORD.*

From the house of the LORD we | bless You.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, chapter one.

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

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,
⁵that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony
about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for
the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord
Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA & VERSE



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.

Psalm 24:7



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the tenth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and He sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one 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 will 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 worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in 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.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332, sts. 1, 5–8



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 5 God the Fa - ther was His source, Back to God He
 6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the
 7 From the man - ger new - born light Shines in glo - ry
 Δ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 ran His course. In - to hell His road went down,
 vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole
 through the night. Dark - ness there no more re - sides;
 Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Back then to His throne and crown.
 All our ills of flesh and soul.
 In this light faith now a - bides.
 Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

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SERMON

Rev. Griebenaw

After the Sermon the pastor may say:

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
 keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

C Amen.

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Kneel (or remain standing)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Matthew and Michael, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Donald, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Alleluia.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

The live-stream service concludes with the following:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P Let us pray.

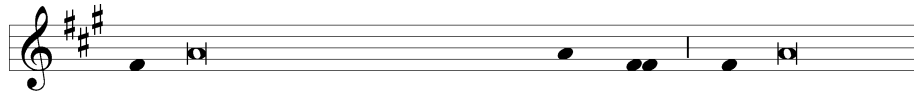
O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

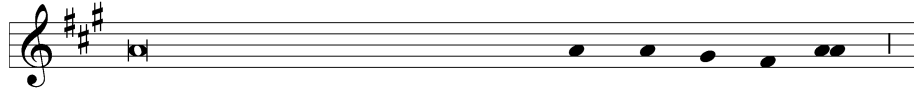
Stand

BENEDICTION

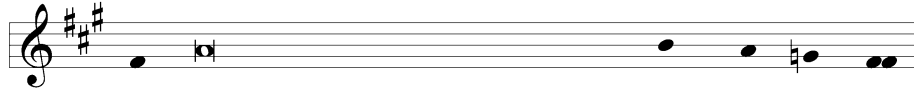
Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Divine Service will continue with the Lord's Supper for those present at the church. Please sing and/or read aloud the closing hymn in your home and, if possible, please come by the church for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.

CLOSING HYMN: Creator of the Stars of Night

LSB 351



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 Thou, griev - ing that the an - cient curse
3 Thou cam'st the Bride - groom of the bride,
4 At whose dread name, ma - jes - tic now,



Thy peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing Light:
Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
As drew the world to e - ven - tide,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;



O Christ, Re - deem - er, save us all
Hast found the heal - ing, full of grace,
The spot - less Vic - tim all di - vine
All things ce - les - tial Thee shall own,



And hear Thy ser - vants when they call.
To cure and save our ru - ined race.
Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin shrine.
And things ter - res - trial, Lord a - lone.

5 O Thou, whose coming is with dread
To judge the living and the dead,
Preserve us from the ancient foe
While still we dwell on earth below.

△ 6 To God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen.

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✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had as ful-FILLING a Thanksgiving as little Sam!

Remember when I talked about the FOMA (food-coma) last week? Well, I took a “before” and “after” picture of Sammy and, well, you can see for yourselves . . . LOL!

Truth is, Sam was just *really tired*. But we can’t blame it on the turkey because we didn’t have any (just chicken for us this year)—so it isn’t the tryptophan. Poor baby. ☺

Sam just hasn’t been sleeping well. He has TWO new teeth coming in—the BIG ONES in the back—and the pain keeps waking him up during the night (and waking up Mom and Dad).



Holly has said that her Christmas wish-list just includes a full-night’s sleep!

Now, speaking of Christmas . . . Happy Advent!

I still can’t believe that 2020 is almost over. It feels like we were just getting ready for Easter! But quarantine will do that to you (or so I suppose . . . this is my first and hopefully *last* quarantine). Now, to be honest, that’s partly what scares me—that I’ve grown somewhat accustomed to this #AloneTogether stuff and “doing church” on the internet. It isn’t how it is supposed to be.

There is no better reminder that CHURCH is supposed to be done TOGETHER and IN-PERSON than Christmas—more specifically, the Incarnation of God! It is so important for us to be physically present together and with Him that God sent His Son into the *flesh* to be *with us—in-person!*

As such, I pray that God would lift this pandemic soon and that we, having been in this sort of “exile” for so long, might repent of our past disregard for the Third Commandment and, with renewed zeal, return to gathering faithfully as His Body each Lord’s Day (Sunday). For the time being, we endure and “gather” as we are able. God be merciful to me, a poor sinner. Amen.

So please join me each **Tuesday at Noon (ending by 1:00pm)** for our **Advent Bible Study** on “Zoom.” We socialize for the first 15 minutes and work through the psalm from 12:15pm to 12:45pm, finishing by 1:00pm.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is “12345”

And tune-in to Facebook **Wednesday at 7:00pm** for our Midweek Advent service. The service folder is on our website (www.GraceLutheranElCentro.org) and the live-stream is on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElCentro).

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw