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# ✠ First Sunday of Advent ✠

ORDER OF WORSHIP • NOVEMBER 30, 2025 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

### ✠ OPENING HYMN

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY,  
JESUS IS CALLING

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling  
calling for you and for me.**

**See on the portals he's waiting and watching  
watching for you and for me.**

*REFRAIN*     **"Come home, come home!  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!**

**Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. *REFRAIN***

### ✠ INVOCATION

**WL:**     In In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,  
✠ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into  
the light of grace.

**All:**     **Amen.**

### ✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

**WL:**     Let us confess our sins to God, who loves us with an unending love,  
who is patient and full of compassion, and who calls us to return  
from our wandering and come home in this Advent season.

*a time of silence for reflection*

**WL:**     God of compassion, we confess to you and to one another our sins in  
thought, word and deed; what we have done, and what we have left  
undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not  
loved our neighbors as ourselves. Come, Lord Jesus.

**All:**     **Lead us home.**

WL: God of unending love, we pray weekly that *YOUR* kingdom come, yet we so often work, and watch, and wait for our own kingdom to come. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Come, Lord Jesus.

**All: Lead us home.**

WL: God of surpassing peace, we confess that we have not always followed your way. We have responded to violence with more violence, to hatred with more hatred. Lead us in paths of justice and call to us to lives of service. Teach us to share with all in need, to turn our swords into plowshares, to forgive others as you forgive us. Come, Lord Jesus.

**All: Lead us home.**

WL: Sisters and brothers, enter God's house with joy!  
Sisters and brothers, God is our home!  
Come now and hear God's life-giving Word:  
God's divine love is powerful. Our sin is washed away!  
New life takes root to grow!

WL: I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

WL: I invite you to sit and to sing as we light our first Advent candle. God comes to us in love to enlighten us, to dwell in us, and to finish his new creation.

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Advent candle is lighted as we sing.*

## ✠ WREATH LIGHTING

KINDLE A FLAME

**Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.**

## FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 2:1-5

R: Our First Lesson on this First Sunday of Advent is from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the prophet Isaiah.

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:  
In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established  
as the highest of the mountains;  
it will be exalted above the hills,  
and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the temple 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.

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.

Come, descendants of Jacob,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 13:8-14

R: Our Second Lesson is from the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Paul’s letter to the Romans.

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 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. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ VERSE

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

**Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.  
The Lord is drawing nigh. REPEAT ALL**

## ✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 21:1-11

WL: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**All: Glory to You, O Lord!**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

"Say to Daughter Zion,  
'See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to You O Christ!**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

## ✠ MESSAGE HYMN

FLING WIDE THE DOOR  
LBW #32, STANZAS 1-3

## ✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Nicene Creed*

WL: Together we confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**All: 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

## GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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## ✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## ✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### ✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

### ✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### COMMUNION HYMN

FLING WIDE THE DOOR

LBW #32

### ✠ DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

**All: Amen.**

### ✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**All: Amen.**

### ✠ BLESSING

WL: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

## ✠ SENDING HYMN

FLING WIDE THE DOOR  
LBW #32, STANZA 4

Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;  
Our hearts are open wide in trust.  
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,  
Upon our sorrows shine your face,  
And let your Holy Spirit guide  
Our journey in your grace so wide.  
We praise your holy name,  
From age to age the same!

## ✠ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

# SOLI DEO GLORIA TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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