

# First Sunday of Advent

## November 29th, 2020

**Theme:** When jealous advisors tricked the king into outlawing worship of God, Daniel remained loyal to God. After surviving the sentence of execution by lion, Daniel's courage turned an entire kingdom toward God.

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Holy God, we confess that we have forgotten what this season is about – the birth of Jesus.

**We get confused, so we wrap ourselves with planning, and shopping, and gift giving and sending,** with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven't left any time...

**to sit in the dark, to sit in silence,**

to contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation and to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. We have celebrated so many Christmases, and yet –

**we still need You to remind us what this season is all about,**

to turn us around and set us in the right direction.

**Make the generosity that drives us this season be present all year.**

May the intentional reaching out to the far-flung and the neighbor continue beyond the holidays. May our hearts, full of so much, be full of love,

**For You, for each other, and for ourselves. Heal us, we pray.**

Hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. You are that beloved. Know that wrapped in love, grace and forgiveness, for today and always. **Amen**

### GREETING

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

### OPENING SONG

*Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory*

Haugen

**Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,**

**you who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.**

**Now as (morning dawns\*) around us, we shall raise our songs to you.** \*original words are (evening falls)

**God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.**

**In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,**

**in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.**

**Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,**

**love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.**

**You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night,**

**make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.**

**Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,**

**loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, which is the candle of **HOPE**. With Christians around the world, we use this light to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. May we receive God's light as we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined."*—Isaiah 9:2

### CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

#240 v.1

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: **Protective God, You guarded over your faithful servant Daniel when his life was threatened, because he refused to dishonor you. Show us the power that the smallest acts of faith may have to influence the world for good, by the help of your Holy Spirit. Amen**

## FIRST READING

Daniel 6: 6-27  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL

Luke 23: 1-5  
The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

## SERMON

### SERMON HYMN

*People, Look East*

#248

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Star, is on the way.**

**Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Receive our prayers and assure us of your unfailing mercy which is ours through Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray...

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*He Came Down*

#253

**He came down that we may have love (light) (peace) joy**  
**he came down that we may have love (light) (peace) joy**  
**he came down that we may have love (light) (peace) joy**  
**hallelujah forevermore.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Stay safe and be safe. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**