

## ADVENT ADVERBS: TRUSTINGLY

### AS WE GATHER

“In God We Trust” is a familiar statement. It has been the official motto of the United States of America since 1956 and has appeared on American coins dating back to 1864. As God’s people, we trust that God will keep His promises. Centuries ago, the psalmist confidently stated, “In God I trust; I shall not be afraid” (Psalm 56:11). Today we begin a new Church Year—another year of God’s grace. We can celebrate that God has brought us to this time and place and together can look trustingly to blessings and surprises yet to come.

## PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN “THE ADVENT OF OUR KING”

#331



1 The ad-vent of our King Our prayers must now em-ploy,  
2 The ev-er-last-ing Son In-car-nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi-on's daugh-ter, rise To meet your low-ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a-gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho-ly joy.  
Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.  
Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem-bers all u-nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.

Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76

Text and tune: Public domain

### INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 25:1–2a, 4–5, 21; Proverbs 3:5–6*

- P** To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame.
- C** **Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.**
- P** Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.
- C** **May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You.**
- P** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
- C** **In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.**

## IN ADVENT HOPE

*st. 1*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "I In Ad-vent hope we gath-er And wor-ship trust-ing - ly,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "As-sured that Christ is com-ing To set His peo-ple free." The notes are written in a simple, clear style suitable for a church service.

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623  
Tune: Public domain

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Confident of receiving God's great mercy, let us confess together that we by nature are sinful and that through our thoughts, words, and deeds we have sinned against our God and deserve His punishment now and eternally.
- C** **Almighty God, we repent of our sins and ask for Your forgiving grace in our lives. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us remission of our sins so that, as Your redeemed people, we may greet you in Advent hope and with trusting hearts serve You in time and in eternity.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

# WORD

## INTROIT

*Psalm 118:25–28; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

- P** Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.
- C** Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!
- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless You from the house of the Lord.
- C** The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!
- C** You are my God, and I will give thanks to You; You are my God; I will extol You.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

## KYRIE

*LSB 152*

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- A** 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.
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.

## HYMN “COME, THOU BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR”

#872



1 Come, Thou bright and Morn - ing Star, Light of Light with -  
2 Let Thy grace, like morn - ing dew Fall - ing soft on  
3 May Thy fer - vent love de - stroy Our cold works, in  
4 Ah! Thou Day - spring from on high, Grant that at Thy  
5 Light us to those heav'n - ly spheres, Sun of grace, in



out be - gin - ning; Shine up - on us from a - far  
bar - ren plac - es, Com - fort, quick - en, and re - new  
us a - wak - ing Ar - dent zeal and ho - ly joy  
next ap - pear - ing We who in the graves do lie  
glo - ry shroud - ed; Lead us through this vale of tears

That we may be kept from sin - ning.  
 Our dry souls and dy - ing grac - es;  
 At the pur - ple morn's first break - ing.  
 May a - rise, Thy sum - mons hear - ing,  
 To the land where days un - cloud - ed,

Drive a - way by Thy clear light Our dark night.  
 Bless Thy flock from Thy rich store Ev - er - more.  
 Let us tru - ly rise ere yet Life has set.  
 And re - joice in our new life, Far from strife.  
 Pur - est joy, and per - fect peace Nev - er cease.

Text: Christian Knorr von Rosenroth, 1636–89; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87  
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

*During the singing of the hymn, the first candle on the Advent wreath is lighted.*

## “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

#357 sts. 1, ref, 2, 4

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*  
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 2:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and all the nations shall flow to it,

<sup>3</sup>and many 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 the law,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;  
and 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 anymore.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

*Romans 13:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup>The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL AND VERSE**

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 24:7; 118:26, alt.*

- P** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
- C** *Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.*
- P** *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless You.*
- C** **Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 24:36–44*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>36</sup>[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup>As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. <sup>42</sup>Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But know this, that if the master 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. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME”**

**#332** *sts. 1–4, 8*

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  
 △ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the

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,  
 Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



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.  
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

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## SERMON

### CREED

*The First Article*

**P** As we begin a new Church Year and reflect on how Jesus' coming fulfilled the Father's plan for our salvation, we speak the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning. It relates the loving work of God the Father for us. He has created and still preserves us, and in His grace, He has brought us to the beginning of a new Church Year.

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

**P** What does this mean?

**C** **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

**He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.**

**He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.**

**This is most certainly true.**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the Church, the community of God's forgiven people, asking that God's messengers continue to speak with power among us and that the Word may come to us today with its message of forgiveness and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer and grant our petition.**

**P** We pray this day for the fellowship of faith and love that we enjoy as God's holy people, asking that we be enabled to gather for worship throughout the new

Church Year with great joy and full anticipation of the blessings of God that come to us in this place. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer and grant our petition.

**P** We pray for those who serve in leadership positions in our national Synod, our district, and our local congregation, that God work among us through their example and witness, that we be of support and encouragement to them, and that together we grow in devotion and dedication in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer and grant our petition.

**P** As a household of faith, we make our petitions for the sick, the shut-in, and all who this day need our prayers, *especially Hedy, Jean, Ray, Rose, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Kris, Jen, John, Jonathan, Leah, and Rod*, that their prayers be answered and that they be supported by God's people as they experience His good and gracious will for their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer and grant our petition.

**P** We pray for those for whom the season of Advent and Christmas is sad or challenging in some way. Help us to reach out to them with compassion, keeping our focus always on the wonderful action of God on our behalf through the coming of Jesus, the promised Messiah. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer and grant our petition.

**P** We remember before You those many faithful Christians who have been part of our lives and our fellowship in times past, especially those who have departed this life and now are rejoicing in the glory of Your promised heavenly kingdom. Direct our ways on earth as we complete this life in faith, that we may rejoice with them eternally together with all the saints and angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer and grant our petition.

*Additional petitions as needed*

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S SUPPER

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. Trusting in Your promises, we bless You for Your abiding presence in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has come to this earth and has taken upon Himself the sins of the world. By His sacrificial death and His glorious rising from the grave, He has opened to us the very gates of heaven. With all the company around the throne of the Lamb in His kingdom, we join the unending praises.

## SANCTUS

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

## 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.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

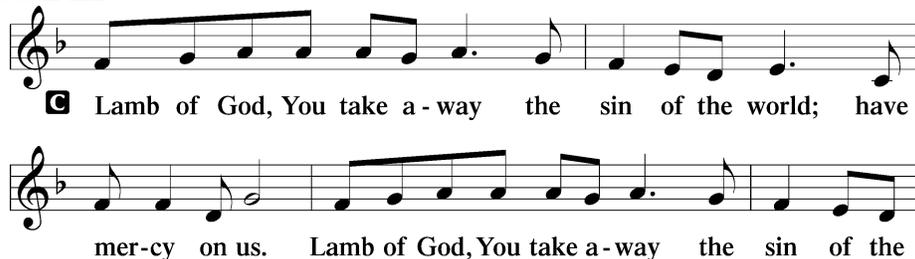
**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

## PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

We receive the Lord's Supper.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

### “LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD”

#352

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of

kept His word And at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
Text and tune: Public domain

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE “THANK THE LORD”

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. Grant that we live trustingly and victoriously, enlightened by the working of Your Holy Spirit. As we await Your coming, direct us to do the good works that You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN “ONCE HE CAME IN BLESSING”

#333



1	Once	He	came	in	bles - ing,	All	our	sins	re -
2	Now	He	gent - ly	leads	us;	With	Him - self	He	
3	Soon	will	come	that	hour	When	with	might - y	
4	Come,	then,	O	Lord	Je - sus,	From	our	sins	re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

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