

The First Sunday
of



ADVENT



First Candle - The Candle of Hope
Abraham and the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, a day when we recall the hope in Christ held through faithful generations.

God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed. Trusting God, Abraham put his hope in this promise. The Old Testament spoke of the coming Savior who would be born a king in the line of King David. This Savior King would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We believe God's promise was fulfilled when Jesus Christ was born, and we believe Jesus will return again in the Second Coming of God's Messiah to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

(A person lights the First Candle here)

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the hope we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth; make our hearts ready to fully place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear and obey your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask this blessing from you in the Name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

*BCP – The Book of Common Prayer, H – The Hymnal 1982
S – Service Music in The Hymnal, A – Alleluia III Songbook*

Advent Wreath Prayer and Candle Lighting

Advent Meditation

Gary Mather

Processional Hymn

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

H 58

Lo! he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain; thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty; those who set at nought and sold him pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deeply wailing deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears, cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers; with what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own: Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign and thou alone.

The Opening Sentences

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Trisagion

S 102

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

Isaiah 2:1-5

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In 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.

3 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 forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4 He 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 122

BCP 779

¹ I 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.
³ Jerusalem 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.
⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
 “May they prosper who love you.
⁷ Peace be within your walls *
 And quietness within your towers.
⁸ For my brethren and my companions’ sake, *
 I pray for your prosperity.
⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
 I will seek to do you good.”

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off^[a] the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn

The King shall come when morning dawns

H 73

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks;
 when beauty gilds the eastern hills and light triumphant breaks.
 when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.
 Not, as of old a little child, to bear, and fight, and die,
 but crowned with glory of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
 The King shall come when morning dawns and earth's dark night is past,

O haste the rising of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
And let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.
The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings:
Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy people pray, come quickly, King of kings.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But 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. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen

The Nicene Creed *All say together*

BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

BCP 388

Intercessor

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth,
live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace;
that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its
resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in
them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and
hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All say together

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

BCP 360

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

The Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory

The Priest says Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*(Offerings may be mailed, given to the church office, or given securely online at
www.stthomasgreenville.org)*

Offertory Meditation

St. Thomas Choir

Hymn at the Presentation

Doxology

H 380 v 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP 369

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of
glory and praise.

People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of
interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
and this fragile earth, our island home.

People By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race,
and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us
the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed
your trust; and we turned against one another.

People Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets
and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the
fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to

fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People *By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.*

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Tune: *Land of Rest*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues:

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Celebrant and People

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his

Name.

People Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray,

Celebrant and People

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. *Alleluia.*

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Ministration of Communion

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation [*Amen.*]

Communion Hymns

Choir and Congregation

O day of God, draw nigh

H 601

O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power, come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid, the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure, and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife thy sovereign word of peace, that war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease.

O day of God draw nigh as at creation's birth, let there be light again, and set thy judgments in the earth.

Judge eternal, throned in splendor

H 596

Judge eternal, throned in splendor, Lord of lords and King of kings, with thy living fire of judgment purge this land of bitter things; solace all its wide dominion with the healing of thy wings.

Still the weary folk are pining for the hour that brings release, and the city's crowded clangor cries aloud for sin to cease; and the homesteads and the woodlands plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, thine own endeavor; cleave our darkness with thy sword; feed all those who do not know thee with the richness of thy word' cleanse the body of this nation through the glory of the Lord.

Prayer for Lay Eucharistic Visitor

Celebrant In the name of this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, so that those to whom you go share with us in this Holy Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People For we who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your

Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant blesses the congregation saying

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Prayer for Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, so that those to whom you go may share with us in this Holy Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: For we who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.

The Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing (Titus 2:13)

God fill you with His own peace as we wait for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with now and evermore. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. *Alleluia, alleluia.*

Recessional Hymn

Christ is the world's true Light

H 542

Christ is the world's true Light, it's Captain of salvation, the Daystar clear and bright of every race and nation; new life, new hope awakes, for all who own his sway: freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.
In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting, the whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting: when Christ is throned as Lord all shall forsake their fear, to ploughshare beat the sword, to pruning hook the spear.
One Lord, in one great Name unite us all who own thee; cast out our pride and shame that hinder to enthrone thee; the world has waited long, has travailed long in pain; to heal its ancient wrong, come Prince of Peace, and reign.

Postlude

Gary Mather