

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
Lancaster, PA

The Holy Eucharist

The First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Advent! This season is necessary and important for us as we take this time to remind ourselves of our need of a Savior. Our worship during Advent also helps us look forward to our Savior's second coming even as we prepare to celebrate his first coming at Christmas. The prayerful, thoughtful attitude of Advent makes our celebration of the birth of Christ a true time of happiness. Welcome into this time of preparation and hope.

If you are visiting with us, a special welcome. We invite you to return and worship with us as often as you are able. Please sign the guest book in the narthex. Guest cards are also available. Please take one, fill it out and return it to an usher. The offering box is by the baptismal font to receive your gift of an offering. If you need a large print bulletin, please ask an usher. As you enter the nave, please conclude all conversations and silence all cell phones and other electronic devices, as to fully enter into this time of worship.

Please note the instructions on distancing for the sharing of the peace (page 7) and receiving Holy Communion. (page 10)

Please indicate to the Pastor if you require gluten free wafers, prior to worship, if possible.

Welcome and Announcements

Silence in preparation for worship.

The Prelude

Please stand.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God for whom we wait,
C **in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
+ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C **Amen.**

The Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you**

The Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Children's Message

The children remain at their seat as the pastor shares a message with them.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Shutter Family

A Be alert for the coming of the Human One.

C Be alert for the coming of the Human One.

A Maranatha!

C Come, Lord Jesus!

A We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Light first candle.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Read in unison.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

The First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah: ¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10 (*Read responsively with the Lector.*)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**²O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

**⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

**¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from First Thessalonians: ⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows.

Please stand.

The Apostles Creed

**C 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.**

The Prayers of the Church

Please sit or kneel for the prayers of the church

A In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Hear us O God,

C **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

P God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

Without leaving your seat offer a wave to your neighbor, sharing God's peace, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
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 Invitation to Communion

P Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

C Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

The Distribution Of Holy Communion

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices open table hospitality. Baptized communicants of other Christian denominations, of all ages, are welcome to receive the sacrament. An usher will direct each seating area to come forward to receive the sacrament. Bring your communion cup with you, or take one from the usher. We return to the practice of continuous communion around the Table with safe distancing by household groups. Please **stand** at the communion rail and the pastor will drop the bread into the hands of communicants and then receive the wine from the Assisting Minister. Those persons not receiving communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.*

Please stand.

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

A Let us pray. Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C Amen.

The Blessing

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C Amen.

Sending to Serve

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God. We will.

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Coming up at Holy Spirit

December 7	Book Club Christmas Dinner, 6 p.m. Square Mile Public House
December 19	4th Sunday in Advent
December 24	The Nativity of Our Lord-Christmas Eve Worship at 6 p.m. & 9 p.m.
December 26	First Sunday of Christmas 9:30 a.m.
January 2	The Epiphany of Our Lord Blessing of the House
February 28 & March 1	Fasnacht Sale

Readings for next week: Advent 2

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79,
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Worship Assistants

Acolytes		Acolytes	
Sammi Dandridge		Charlie Schwenk	
Assisting Ministers		Assisting Ministers	
Chip Froelich		Doug Dandridge	
Patti LaPorte		Andrew Knaub	
Lector		Lector	
Suzann Schwenk		Tim Brixius	
Greeters		Greeters	
Mary Ann Russell		JoAnn Matos	
Usher		Usher	
Eric Bentley		Dennis Steiner	
Bread		Bread	
Sayre Turney		Marty Brunner	
Altar Guild Set-up		Altar Guild Set-up	
Janet Wiegand		Diana Thompson	
Noelle Dandridge			
Altar Guild Clean-up		Altar Guild Clean-up	
Linda & Bob Slade		Sayre Turney	
		Jan Wacker	
Council Person		Council Person	
Chip Froehlich		Doug Dandridge	
Counters		Counters	
Suzann Schwenk		Suzann Schwenk	
Kayt Tourville		Sandy Rohrback	



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