

St. Luke's Table

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Look up and raise
your heads, because
your redemption
is drawing near.

Luke 21.28



God's Shining Face,
Church of St. Nicolas Saint-Nicolas-de-Port, France

Good Morning and Welcome!

A Service of the Word

Adapted from Church of England, A Service of the Word

Liturgical elements from:

Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada

Connections Worship Companion

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING Morning and Evening Prayer for the Seasons of the Church Year

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/advent>

<https://biblegateway.com> (for Scripture passages)



Hope

Gathering and Greeting

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence
so that we may behold your power and glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

In your tender compassion
the dawn from on high is breaking upon us
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.
As we look for your coming among us this day,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
so that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be
God for ever.**

God of our salvation, for you we wait.
Night and day we pray for your return.

Come and fulfill your promise to us.
Come and deliver your people!

Opening Hymn



Aging Grace, Langdon, Fe

The First Sunday of Advent: HOPE

Today we light the first candle, the Candle of Hope. The people of Israel hoped in God's promises and were not disappointed. Again and again God delivered Israel from its enemies.

We too have the same experience of salvation.
That is why we believe in God's promise
to send Jesus to us once again to judge the world
and establish his kingdom forever upon the earth



(The Candle of Hope is Lit)

Overflow with Hope, Beerhorst, Rick and Brenda

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 Jesus Christ.

Let us pray,

**This candle shines with glorious light,
a word of hope to those in night.
It brightly shines in night's dark day,
and shows the hope God gives today.**

**Give hope, O Lord, to us this day,
make in our hearts a ready way.
That Christ, our Hope, our King, may come
Into our hearts and make His home.**

Song from Jeremiah (alternate verses)

Jeremiah 31:10-14

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations;
tell it on the far off shores:

“He who scattered Israel will gather
and guard them as a shepherd his flock.

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
redeemed them from a foe too strong.

They will come and sing for joy on Zion's height,
radiant at the bounty of the Lord:

the grain, the new wine, the oil.
the young of flock and herd.

Their life a watered garden,
they will never want again.

Then will maidens sow their joy in the dance;
men, young and old, will rejoice.

I shall turn their mourning into gladness.
give comfort and joy for their sorrow.

I will satisfy the priests with abundance,
and fill my people with my bounty.

Prayer of Confession and Restoration

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden
in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess
our sins.

God of all mercy,
**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore and strengthen us
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
so that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will.
Amen.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ.
Amen

The Collect of the Day

**Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility,
that on 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 Proclamation of the Word

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God
as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures.
Our hearts and minds are open.

First Reading:

Jeremiah 33:14-16



St. Hedwig of Silesia Listening to a Reading -- Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The 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. In 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. In 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."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25: 1-9 (alternating verses)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
My God, put my trust in you;
**let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.

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

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my
transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

**God of compassion and love,
forgive our sins, relieve our misery,
satisfy our longing,
and fulfil all our hopes for peace;
through your Son Jesus Christ our Redeemer.**

Amen.

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13



Knowledge, Robert Lewis Reid, Library of Congress
Washington, DC

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

And 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

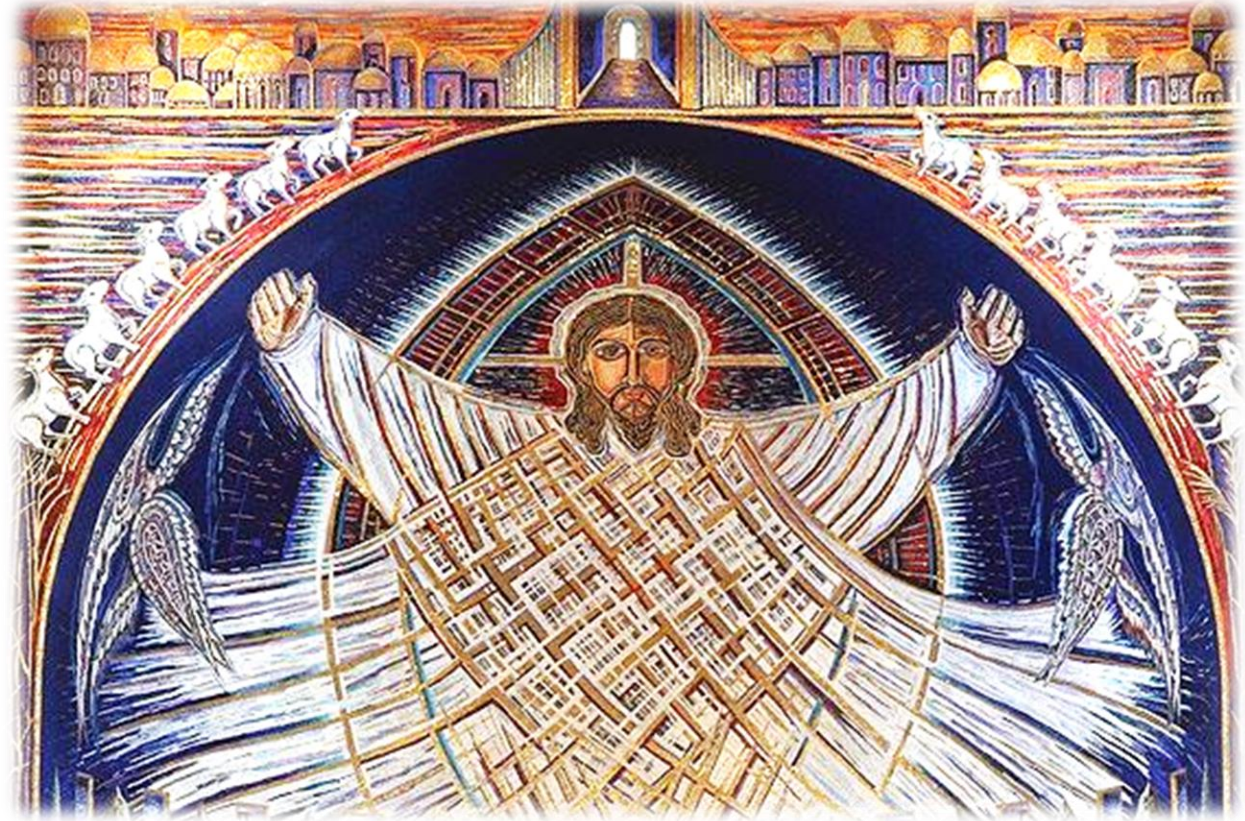
Let us greet the Gospel of Christ with our Gradual Hymn:



©2009 Daniel Austin

Shores on the Road to Hope, Hoherd, Daniel

The Good News:
The Gospel of Christ
according to
Luke 21:25-36



Christ in Glory -- Apse mosaic, Church of the
Transfiguration, Barnstable County, MA

Luke 21:25-36

“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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for your selves and k now that summer is already near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away.

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that the day does not catch you unexepectedly, like a trap. For it will come up on all who live upon the face of the whole earth.

Be 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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to God's word

Reflection

An Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
the word made flesh, born of a woman,
servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth
to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.
Amen.**

Prayers of
the People

Offered by
Rev Bill MacDonald



Rose McClendon in Prayer -- Richmond Barthe,
Fallingwater, PA

The Peace

Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a halfhearted peace,
but the peace of God in Jesus Christ
be with you all.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

Let us offer our lives and gifts to God, trusting that the God of righteousness will purify them, like a new garment, and refine them, like silver and gold, so that they may be worthy of praise and pleasing to the Lord.



The Seamstress, Anna Blunden
Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT

Prayer over the Gifts

**God of love and power,
your word stirs within us
the expectation of the coming of your Son.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and sustain us with your promise of eternal life.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ taught us, we are bold to say.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done**

On earth as it is on 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,
the power, and the glory
forever and ever.
Amen.**

The Blessing

God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, so that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvellous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, so that we may yearn for the coming of your Christ and stand without blame before him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love. **Amen.**

Announcements



Cross with Trumpet, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library
Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Closing Hymn



Altar of the Mystical Lamb – Angels Playing Music
Hubert van Eyck
Ghent altarpiece, Ghent, Belgium

Sending Out

The promise of God is for all.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.