



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Virtual Worship

GATHERING

Preparing for Virtual Worship

Set up a space in your home for worship and prayer. Light a candle, set out a cross or icon to help you focus; set your phone on Do Not Disturb, wash your hands. Take a few deep breaths and say a short prayer to prepare your heart to “enter” a different kind of space. We recommend the Collect for Purity:

*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.*

Prelude: *Two Advent Chorales*

J. S. Bach

Savior of the Nations, Come “Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

In the first of these chorale preludes, a setting of Hymn 54, Bach (1685-1750) evokes the anguish of the world awaiting a savior with writing that is poignantly beautiful. The hymn tune is embellished in the manner of an operatic soprano voice. The second is an organ transcription Bach made from one of his cantatas. The tune of Hymn 61 is presented in the tenor register. The bass and treble parts form a lively, dance-like accompaniment that urges the listener to awaken for the coming of the Lord.

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THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy,** Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Priest Let us pray.

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.**

Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 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.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Priest The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Music for Reflection: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**Hymn 56 (vs. 1-2)**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!* O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain.*

This hymn has its origin in a series of antiphons for Advent vespers that arose no later than the 8th century. These antiphons were traditionally sung from December 17 to 23. The second word of each Latin antiphon yields an acrostic, spelling out the letters ERO CRAS: "I shall be present tomorrow." If one antiphon was sung each day, the full text of the acrostic was revealed only on the day before Christmas Eve. In a modification of the ancient tradition, we will hear two verses of the carol on each Sunday of Advent.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD**Prayers of the People****Form II, BCP 385**

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed especially _____. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those in our community _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The celebrant concludes with prayers and a collect

The Lord's Prayer

Priest 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 Offertory Hymn: *Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending*

Hymn 57

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain; thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train: 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, 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 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! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Thomas Middleton, soloist

In this hymn we have a classic Charles Wesley (1707-1788) text. The tune is attributed to the preacher Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), who said he adapted it from something he heard whistled on the street. Some scholars believe the tune he heard whistled must have been from an opera by Baroque composer Thomas Arne (1710-1788). Whatever the origin, Charles Wesley's brother John published the text and tune together, and they have been sung during Advent ever since.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt

Announcements

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Postlude: *Savior of the Nations, Come*

J. S. Bach

This is another Bach setting of Hymn 54. In contrast to the introspective writing heard during this morning's prelude, this is a dramatic setting "in Organo Pleno" (full organ). The hands are given a fugue based on the opening notes of the hymn. The "cantus firmus," the "fixed voice" of the hymn tune, thunders in the pedal. If the quiet first setting of the tune represents the soul awaiting the coming Savior, this version seems to depict the unexpected arrival described in our Gospel lesson.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Advent kick-off on Sunday, November 29th, at 10:00 a.m. in place of the usual picnic eucharist service. Drop by anytime between 10 - 11 a.m. to pick up your advent kit, plus music and activities for the kids! (No RSVP required, but please sign up [here](#) for your advent kit in advance.)

Vestry nominations for 2021 are open! Please send nominees to Sr. Warden, Michael Meigs (michaelmeigs@gmail.com). Vestry nominees must be confirmed communicants in good standing.

Angel Tree Gifts: We've put the whole "tree" online and are asking you to put gift cards inside personalized greeting cards. You can participate [HERE](#) and help brighten the holidays for some of our neighbors at Barton Hills Elementary School, Community First! Village, and Trinity Center by giving a gift. **Please return gifts to St. Mark's on Sundays, or send to us in the mail. Deadlines are listed on the Signup Genius page** (link above). Contact Mother Mary with questions.

New Online Giving Platform: St. Mark's has moved to a new online giving service, Vanco, which integrates seamlessly into our other platforms, making it easier for you while saving staff resources. We will continue to support PayPal as well, and whichever way you set up gifts, St. Mark's appreciates your faithful contributions. **To view the new online giving on our website go [here](#).**

St. Mark's 101 Class: Tuesdays in Advent, beginning December 1, 7-8 p.m., an orientation to life at St. Mark's—a little theology, a little history, why do we do what we do when we do it. Intended for newcomers, but open to all! RSVP to Fr. Zac: zac@stmarksaustin.org.

Advent Quiet Day, Saturday, December 5, 9am - noon. Anyone is welcome to participate in the virtual event. For link & RSVP information, email [Heather Azarmehr](#). Sponsored by the Daughters of the King. Schedule of events listed [here](#).

AdventWord is a global online Advent calendar and anyone can participate. Using the AdventWord website and social media, like FaceBook and Instagram, you can see written and visual meditations on the word of the day, and offer your own. For details: <https://adventword.org/en/home/> and on FaceBook.

St. Mark's is giving to the following organizations this week:

- iAct (Interfaith Action of Central Texas), \$1,000 to support their refugee and housing programs, which have adapted during the pandemic.
- Warm Heart International, \$1,000, an organization with Episcopal roots right here in Austin that brings fresh water, orphan care, and educational scholarships in Malawi.

ONGOING

Morning Prayer, Mondays - Fridays, 8:30 a.m. Access links: www.stmarksaustin.org.

Sunday Schedule: Outdoor in-person Sunday eucharist services reservations (*required*) open each Monday prior to the Sunday service. RSVP here: www.stmarksaustin.org. ***There will be no Sunday school class on November 29th.***

- **8:00 a.m.** - Parking lot Eucharist, Rite I
- **9:00 a.m.** - *Virtual* Worship Livestream (links accessible through our website)
- **10:00 a.m.** - Family Service on the front lawn
- **11:15 a.m.** - Parking Lot Eucharist, Rite II

PARISH INTERCESSION LIST

You are invited to use this Intercession List to pray for those listed below.

For healthcare workers and teachers: Heather, Michael B., Christine, Eric, Joan, Beth, Mac, Jodi, Courtney, Russ, Nicole, Jewellyn, Jana Kay, Steven, Pam, Marcille, Jesse, Laurie, Charles, Cilla, Jonea, Jennifer R., Jennifer S., Samuel, Mary, Jordan, Jeffrey, Kim, Michael T., Amber, Aaron, Sarah, Laurie, Carolyn, Jennifer, Chez, James., Cindy.

For those celebrating birthdays: Amalia de la Rosa, Christie Stockstill, Susan Erwin, Matthew Forrest, Gabriella Hartline, Remy Hatton, Ben Ramsey, Grace Kochelek, Amy Sepos, Amy Quinones, Susan Randle, Cassandra Gehlken.

For those celebrating anniversaries: Silvia & Adam Gates.

For those who have died: Albert Lara, brother of Irma Glover; Epimenio, uncle of Yvonne Chavez.

For those whom the Daughters of the King pray.

Lectors: Jennifer Gallardo-Payne & Jeremy Payne



Join us at www.stmarksaustin.org, and
on Instagram and Facebook and YouTube
@stmarksaustin

The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, *Bishop of Texas*

The Rev. Zac Koons, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings, *Theologian-in-Residence*

Casey Bushman, *Director of Christian Formation*

Barbara Gausewitz, *Seminarian*

Brandon Haynes, *Seminarian*

The Rev. Mary Keenan, *Curate*

Mark Reed, *Organist/Director of Music and Bookkeeper*

Joanne Foote, *Parish Administrator*

Karon Hammond, *Head of St. Mark's Day School*

Irma Glover, *Sexton*