

First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities. Especially do I acknowledge my neglect of prayer, my indifference to Your Word, and my seeking after worldly luxury and self-promotion. I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them; and I pray, of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, forgive me all my sins, and be gracious and merciful to me. Cleanse me through Your Spirit by the blood of Jesus Christ, and give me more and more power and willingness to strive after holiness, for You have called me to be holy and blameless before You in love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from 1 John:

"I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of Jesus' name."

C Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1–3; Zechariah 9:9b

P Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

C To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

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

- C** Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- C** 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1–9

- ¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And 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.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

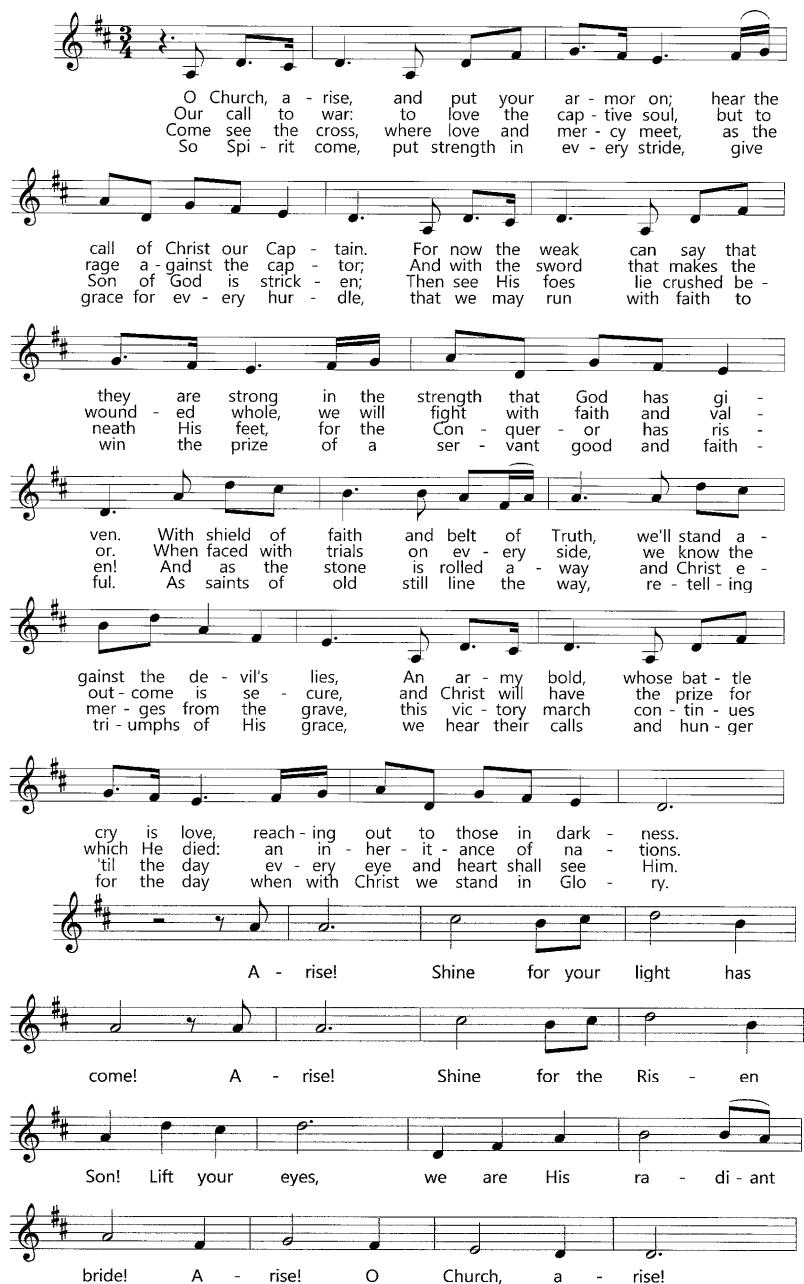
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.



Sermon Hymn

O Church, Arise



O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mor on; hear the
Our call to war: to love the cap - tive soul, but to
Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
So Spi - rit come, put strength in ev - ery stride, give

call of Christ our Cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
rage a - gainst the cap - tor; And with the sword that makes the
Son of God is strick - en; Then see His foes lie crushed be -
grace for ev - ery hur - dle, that we may run with faith to

they are strong in the strength that God has gi -
neath His feet, for the fight with faith and val -
win the prize of a Con - quer - or has ris -

ven. With shield of faith and on ev - ery a - way way, we'll stand a -
or. When faced with trials and is rolled a - we know the
en! And as the stone old still line the and Christ e -
ful. As saints of old the way way, re - tell - ing

gainst the de - vil's lies, An ar - my bold, whose bat - tle
out - come is se - cure, and this Christ will have the prize for
mer - ges from the grave, we hear their march con - tin - ues
tri - umphs of His grace, calls and hun - ger

cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
which He died: an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
'til the day ev - ery eye and heart shall see Him.
for the day when with Christ we stand in Glo - ry.

A - rise! Shine for your light has
come! A - rise! Shine for the Ris - en
Son! Lift your eyes, we are His ra - di - ant
bride! A - rise! O Church, a - rise!

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Prayer

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

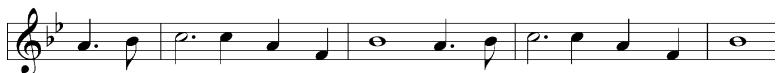
Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn #761

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
 When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
 Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, tune: Thomas Hastings, text & tune: public domain

Distribution Hymn #570

Just as I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, tune: William B. Bradbury, text & tune: public domain

Announcements

Mid-week Advent Service - Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend in person, this service on our YouTube channel.

Bible Study *

Sunday @ 12:30 p.m. (Zoom)

* Please text Pastor Mueller if you have not yet attended and would like a Zoom invitation link sent to your email.

Sunday School

Parents of students in preschool through 8th grade - We have missed seeing our students in Sunday School, so have decided to bring back a modified version to celebrate Advent season. Starting today, November 29th, we will invite the students downstairs immediately after Communion for a brief (5-10 minute) period where they can grab a pre-packaged snack, hear a short message and take home materials to work on at home. We also know how much Pastor Mueller loves crafts, so we may even throw in one of those for fun too. We can't wait to see everyone again.

New Member Class - Tonight 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Youth Confirmation –Today 11:30am - 12:30pm.

Congregational Meeting

We will have a congregational meeting on December 6 at 11:30am. Those who wish to attend in person can meet in the Sanctuary at that time. We will also broadcast online for those who are unable to attend in person. We will address the following:

- Review and approval of a new Constitution and Bylaws--drafts may be found in the narthex or may be requested from the church office.
- 2021 Budget--drafts may be found in the narthex or may be requested from the church office.
- 2021 Elders and Deacons

Please look for the meeting agenda in the narthex today.

Youth Group

Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Group (6th-12th Grade)

Join us Tuesday nights here at the church from 6:30-8:00pm. We have a lot of exciting things happening - come check it out. Adult helpers are always welcome. Any questions, please contact the church office.

Youth Ministry Homeless Outreach

Our youth group is collecting new adult gloves, hats and scarves to deliver to the homeless men and women of Granite City on December 12th at the Community Care Center from 12:30-3. A donation bin will be located near the church entrance for anyone who would like to give. All Sunday school aged children and their families are invited to join us Tuesday night 12/8 for a Christmas wrapping party of those donated items. Check out our church website to sign up for a 30 minute time slot to come wrap presents, create a Christmas card, enjoy some cookies and a quick movie. Thank you!

Mercy Ministries

Glen Carbon School We are collecting winter coats (children's sizes 6-8 / 10-12/14-16) , hats and mittens for girls and boys in need. They need 3 in each size for both girls and boys for now. These have to be new due to Covid Restrictions. Please keep in mind, this is for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades. Please drop off your donations in the box in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Christmas Blessings

We are excited to have been asked to sponsor a local family of 8 (ranging from 7 months – 13 years old) for Christmas! This is an amazing opportunity to share our blessings, and since the suggested gifts are modest, there are many opportunities to participate. You are invited to sign-up online. A direct link is available on our website and Facebook page. If you are interested in donating, but do not have access to the online sign-up, please contact Cheryl in the church office for a list of items needed.

Thanksgiving Meals

Thank you to everyone who so graciously donated so that we were able to provide Thanksgiving dinner to seven local families in need! We praise God for each of you and for your generosity in sharing the love of Christ through this mission.

College Care

Fall finals packages filled with snacks, handwritten notes of encouragement and love were sent to 19 college students from St. James! A special thank you to everyone who donated time and talents to make this mission possible. May God continue to bless and watch over our college students!



SAINT JAMES
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— GLEN CARBON —

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