

Darkness to Light

Expecting God in Advent



Welcome and Gathering of the Community



Advent Hymn

People Look East! The Time is Near

(CP 91)

People, look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the guest, is on the way.



The Lighting of the Advent Candles

All We light this candle
as a symbol of God's love for us
and our love for one another.
For the Lord will fulfill his promise
to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
A righteous Branch will spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice
and righteousness in the Land.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!



Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

(CP 88)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.



The Collect

Leader Together, let us pray.

All 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.



Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Reader

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.



Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Reader

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.



Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Reader “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”
The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**



Reflection: Yohan Dumpala



The Nicene Creed

Officiant Let us confess our faith as we say,

All **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.**



The Nicene Creed

All 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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.



Invitation to Christian Stewardship

We at St John the Baptist Norway give regularly to God's work through offerings and other gifts. Our offerings support the life of the parish, as well as the work we do in the world, both locally and globally.

We invite you to contribute financially as you are able to the life and ministry of the parish. Instructions for submitting contributions can be found on our website.

Leader Together let us pray.

All Dear God, thank you for all that you give us.
We faithfully give back to you just a portion of what you bless us with. Thank you for teaching us to be generous and for giving us grateful hearts. Amen.



Prayers of the People, led by Yohan Dumpala



The Confession

Leader Beloved in Christ, Jesus the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

All **We confess to you, Heavenly Father, how unlike you we are in our attitudes and actions. We strive for recognition and acclaim from others. We look out for our own needs and concerns, failing to care for others except when it serves our own purposes. Forgive us our sins and renew our hearts. Show us how we can only achieve greatness and gain our lives by giving them away. Work in us the power of your Holy Spirit so we become more like you and so bring glory to our Father in heaven. This we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Prayer of Pardon

Leader Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

All Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

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

All **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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**



The Blessing

Announcements



Closing Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(CP 89)

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 you, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law, in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]



The Dismissal

Leader So now go in peace, remember the poor, be kindly affectioned one to another!

All **Thanks be to God.**

