

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Making Room for God This Advent



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

Romans 13:11-14

Reader

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 122

*Please join on the alternating
bolded verses of the psalm*

- Officiant* I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
All **Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- Officiant* Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
All **To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.**
- Officiant* For there are the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David.
All **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.**
- Officiant* Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.
All **For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity.**
- Officiant* Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."



Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Reader

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.



Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Reader

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.



The Reflection: The Rev. Molly Finlay



What We Believe

Leader Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Leader Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Leader Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Leader This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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 The Rev. Molly Finlay



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.**

