



# THE LORD'S DAY ~ November 29, 2020

## First Sunday of Advent



*"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts."*

~ Malachi 3:1-5

### Prelude

*"I See the Lord"*

I see the Lord seated on the throne, exalted,  
And the train of His robe fills the temple with glory;  
And the whole earth is filled, and the whole earth is filled  
And the whole earth is filled with His glory.

*Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord.  
Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord of lords.*

### Pastor's Welcome

### Prayer of Invocation and Praise

#### \*Call to Worship

Malachi 3:1

#### \*Hymn of Praise

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* (T196)

#### \*Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism Questions 127-129

**Leader:** *What does the sixth request of the Lord's Prayer mean?*

**People:** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil means ~  
By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies ~ the devil, the world, and our own flesh ~ never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

**Leader:** *What does your conclusion to the Lord's Prayer mean?*

**People:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever means ~  
We have made all these requests of you because, as our all-powerful king, you not only want to, but are able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.

**Leader:** *What does that little word "amen" express?*

**People:** Amen means, this is sure to be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer, than that I really desire what I pray for.

### Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7; Romans 13:11-14

### Pastoral Prayer

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Romans 12:1

### Offertory Hymn

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* (T194)

### Prayer of Illumination

Psalms 119:118-119

### Sermon

Malachi 3:1-5

"The LORD Coming to His Temple"

Handel's *Messiah* Series

Rev. Cory D. Colravay

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

#### Invitation

#### Reading of the Law

#### Confession of Sin

Heavenly Father, we humbly ask that you would grant us a very meaningful and Christ-honoring Advent season. We sadly confess we have done so little with so much.

Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee to your holy will in all things, for not reading the Book to find our daily manna, for not searching our hearts to root out our idols, for not facing our sins with courage and confidence at the foot of the Cross of Christ. Deal with us, not according to our sins, but according to your tender mercies, O God!

Holy Spirit, grant us the most important gift of all, a fresh sense of your saving presence, and a renewed resolve to live, really and truly live, an abundant life of faith fully trusting You, a living faith working through love, in all things, at all times, toward all people, redeeming the time, to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 53:6

\*For those who are able, please stand at these times.

Special Offering  
Hymn of Meditation

Covenant Mercy Ministry  
*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
For the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

*Gloria, Gloria! Now my eyes have seen;  
Soli Deo Gloria! He salvation brings.  
As the Lord has promised, I may go in peace.*

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

Distribution of Elements

- \*Charge and Benediction
- \*Hymn of Benediction
- \*Postlude

Numbers 6:24-26  
*"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"* (C271)

