

yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the Deacon says,*

The Gospel of Christ.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Preparation Hymn CP 93

*You Servants of the Lord*

Tune: Narenza

### Hymn During Communion CP 94

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.*

*Wait for the Lord, be strong, take Heart!*

Source: Taizé Community

### Closing Hymn CP 114

*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Tune: Helmsley

**Postlude:** *Nun, komm’, der Heiden Heiland*

J. H. Buttstedt (1666-1727)

#### Advent Reflection

Bernard of Clairvaux, the twelfth-century abbot and theologian, wrote eloquently of “three Advents”: first of all, the Incarnation, the Advent at Christmas; and last of all, the *Parousia*, the Advent at the end of the age (Luke’s subject in this week’s passage). And the second or “middle” Advent, says Bernard, the one in between these other two, is the everyday arrival of Jesus: the knock at the door, the still small voice, the lonely prisoner, the hungry mother, the weary refugee, the migrant worker, the asylum seeker. In other words, Jesus is coming again and again, like a thousand spring buds on a fig tree long thought dead.

So be alert — lamps lit and dressed for action. Hope is a verb!

<https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/advent-week-one-lectionary-commentary>



December 1, 2024

**Prelude Music:** *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*  
J. G. Walther (1684-1748)

### Advent Candle Lighting Advent 1 - Hope

**Reader One:** When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight...

**Reader Two:** When I look around, I see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer — and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...

**Reader One:** In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope.

**Reader Two:** In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope... (*Light the first candle in the Advent wreath.*)

**Reader One:** May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

**Reader Two:** May the light from this candle say to all that God’s hope is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

**All Together: Friends, let us not be afraid, God’s hope is at hand!**

**Hymn 89** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
[Verse One]

**Opening Hymn: CP 88** *Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*  
Tune: Stuttgart

**Children's Message**



**Collect**

**God of justice and peace,  
from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness.  
Raise our heads in expectation,  
so that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord  
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus  
Christ,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**  
*Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.*

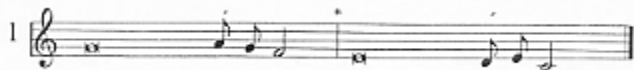
**The Proclamation of the Word**

**Reader** A reading from Jeremiah [33:14-16]

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 25:1-9**



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my / trust in you;\*  
**let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph / over me.**

Let none who look to you be / put to shame;\*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed / in their schemes.**

Show me your / ways, O Lord,\*  
**and teach / me your paths.**

Lead me in your / truth and teach me,\*  
**For you are the God of my salvation;  
In you have I trusted all / the day long.**

Remember, O Lord, your compas-/sion and love,\*  
**for they are from / everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth  
and / my transgressions;\*  
**remember me according to your love  
for the sake of your good-/ness, O Lord.**

Gracious and upright / is the Lord;\*  
**therefore he teaches sinners / in his way.**

He guides the humble in / doing right\*  
**and teaches his way / to the lowly.**

All the paths of the Lord are / love and faithfulness\*  
**to those who keep his covenant and his / testimonies.**

**Reader** A reading from the first letter to the  
Thessalonians [3:9-13]

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**The Gradual Hymn CP 96**

*Creator of the Stars of Night*  
Tune: Conditor Alme Siderum

**The Gospel**

*All stand, as able, for the proclamation of the Gospel.*

**Deacon** The Lord be with you

**People** **And also with you.**

**Deacon** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke [21:25-36]

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for