

# Online Advent Bulletin

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December 13, 2020

Welcome to St. Andrews Lutheran Church in San Mateo, CA and our online worship service. Please feel free to pause this video, you may want to have a lit candle in front of you. Materials you may want to have: bread/cracker/tortilla, and wine/juice for communion. Feel share this bulletin and this worship service with friends, family, or neighbors.

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

Advent is a time of preparation, waiting, watching and expectation for the coming of the birth of Jesus. One of the traditions of Advent is to light candles for each week before Christmas Eve. This time of waiting allows us to carve out time to be silent in our wait to pray and listen for the voice of God. Many people have an advent wreath where we mark off each day during the anticipation of the coming of the Christ child. Candles have traditionally marked our time of expectation and preparation as we note the passing of each week before the celebration of Jesus' birth. Blessed Advent!! (CWE)

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Pastor: Who is Coming?

**Congregation: Jesus is Coming!**

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## Hymn

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (sung during the lightening of the candles)

O Come, Thou Day-Spring, Come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And deaths dark shadow put to flight  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Pastor: We begin our worship in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer. **AMEN.**

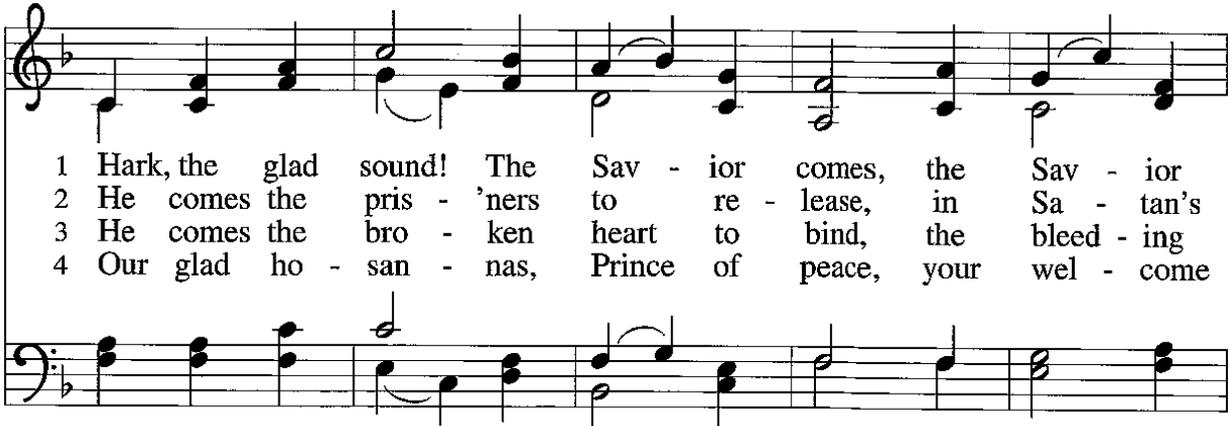
## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, Holy Spirit living within us, you blessed Mary with a visit from an angel. She listened to the message and agreed to be a large part of how God works in our world. Mary opened herself up to a new wild adventure. Let us be as open as Jesus' mother was to wonderful challenges from God. May our worship bring us insight into the compassionate ways the Holy Spirit calls us into places we had never dreamed to be a part. Blessed be God. **AMEN.** (CWE)

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## Opening Hymn ELW #239 "Hark the Glad Sound"



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

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## First Reading      Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

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<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and God's arm rules for God;  
God's reward is with God,  
and God's recompense before God.

<sup>11</sup> God will feed God's flock like a shepherd;  
God will gather the lambs in God's arms,  
and carry them in God's bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Bell Choir**

**Psalm 25:4-7** (Read responsively)

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
**teach me your paths.**

5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
**for you are the God of my salvation;**  
**for you I wait all day long.**

6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
**for they have been from of old.**

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
**according to your steadfast love remember me,**  
**for your goodness' sake, O Lord!**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Praise the Lord!**

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## The Holy Gospel

## Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to

come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves,

‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Glory to you, O God.**

**Sermon**

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## Hymn of the Day ELW #264 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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## Prayers of the People

Let us pray.

God of power and might, during advent we look for the miracle of a young virgin giving birth to the Son of God. We wait and watch for people to take on the attributes of Jesus like kindness, compassion and the ability to forgive. We eagerly look for sightings of people going out of their way to help others. As we keep our eyes open we can be witnesses of the teachings of Jesus come to life. This year we are looking toward God to give us a miracle that puts an end to this pandemic. We pause to pray for all those who we believe need God's care, healing, and love. We lean on you for healing Jesus. Keep us safe. Help us through each day. **AMEN.**  
(CWE 2020)

## Peace of the Lord

Pastor: Peace of the Lord be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us share God's peace with one another.

## Offering

I invite you to donate your offering to St. Andrews by sending in a check. You can also donate by PayPal or through our website. To contribution through PayPal, click on the heart on the homepage of our website. Or you can contact our administrative assistant, Marjorie Goodwin, at the office to setup one-time and reoccurring contributions through our vendor – Vanco, using your checking or savings account. Thank you for your contribution to the ministry of our church. All contributions are appreciated.

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## Offertory Prayer

Let us pray, May the gifts that we offer to God be a sign of our trust in God's promise of a new tomorrow, a better day, a sign that love and forgiveness have indeed found a way. **AMEN.** (CWE)

## Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

## Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you, and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Drink this and remember me.

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## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us;  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

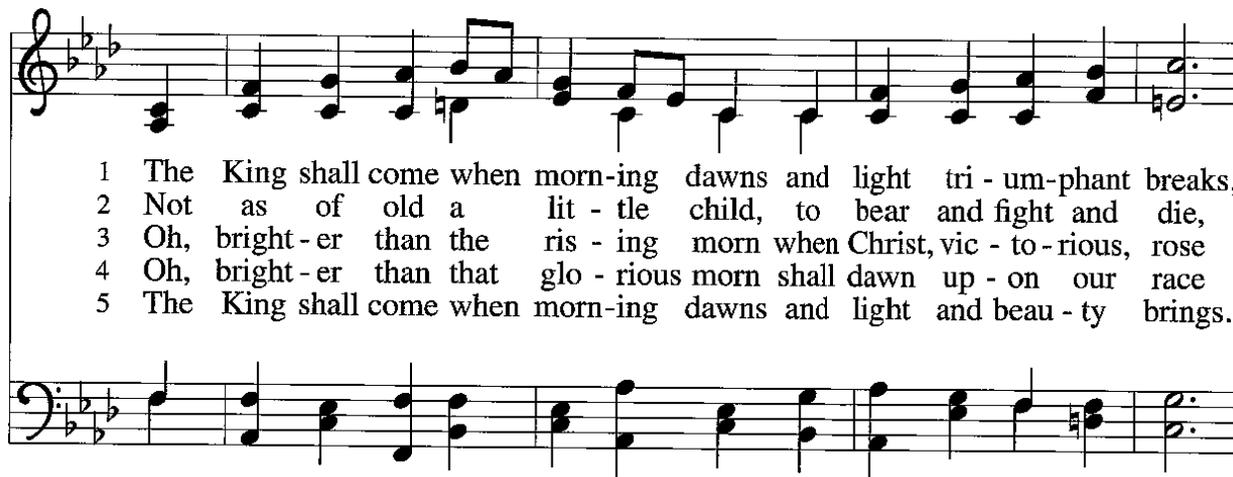
## Blessing

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **AMEN**

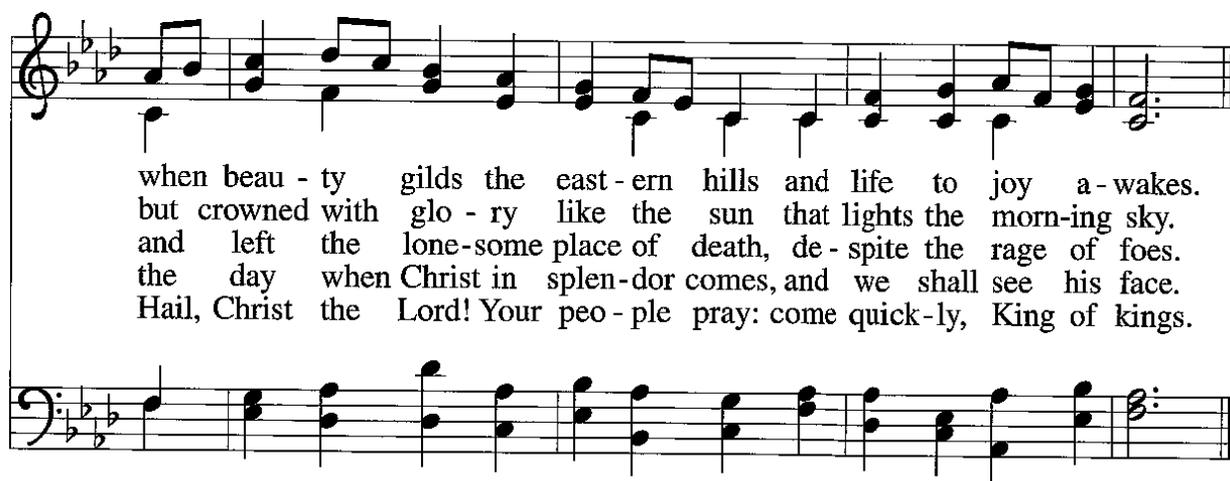
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## Sending Hymn ELW #260 "The King Shall Come"



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

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## **Benediction**

May you live this week watching and waiting for the Christ child.  
Live as if God has come among us, because God has.  
Live as if God has been revealed to you  
and called you to love and service to others—because God has.  
Live in anticipation of the reconciliation of all creation to God—because it is  
coming.  
Live as if your life depended upon God’s grace—because it does.  
And live to celebrate the advent of our Messiah, Jesus Christ,  
praising the name of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer.  
Amen.

<https://voxveniae.com/2012/12/liturgy-reflection-benediction-12-23-12> (revision  
by CWE)

## **Dismissal**

**Pastor:** Go in Peace and share the good news!!  
**Congregation:** **Thanks be to God!!!**