

Our Dear Christ Enters In Week 1: Family Tree

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Matthew 1:1

Invocation

P We worship in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

331 The Advent of Our King

sts. 1–3, 6

1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.

3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

D 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.

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Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P Beloved in the Lord, as we draw closer to Christmas, may this wreath remind us that Jesus came to conquer the darkness of our sin and lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom, as the prophet Isaiah declares,

C **“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shone.”**

(One purple candle is lit on the Advent wreath.)

P Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the true Light who comes into the world to enlighten all peoples, bless us as we light the first candle on this wreath in preparation for your coming. Enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love so that we may reflect your love to all—especially to those who are still walking in spiritual darkness around us; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Confession & Absolution (from Psalm 32)

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,

C **whose sins are covered.**

P Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,

C **and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P I acknowledged my sin to you,

C **and I did not cover up my iniquity.**

P I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”—

C **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P King Jesus,

C we confess that we so often give you lip service with our tongues yet deny you with our thoughts, words and actions. We have not placed you first in every area of our lives, nor have we considered all others as better than ourselves. Hear us as we take this moment to confess our sins, especially those sins that are weighing heavily on our consciences right now:

(Silence for personal confession.)

P “‘Comfort, comfort my people,’ says your God. ‘Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her that her iniquity is pardoned’” (Isaiah 40:1-2). In his tender mercy, God has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to you. In his stead and by his command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

798 The God of Abraham Praise

sts. 1–3

- 1 The God of Abr’ham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days
And God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM!
By earth and heav’n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
Forever blest.
- 2 The God of Abr’ham praise,
At whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys
At His right hand.
I all on earth forsake,
Its wisdom, fame, and pow’r,
And Him my only portion make,
My shield and tow’r.
- 3 The God of Abr’ham praise,
Whose all-sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days
In all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend;
He calls Himself my God.
And He shall save me to the end
Through Jesus’ blood.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99, alt.

Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P O God, we prepare our hearts this Advent season for the coming of your Son, who was born into the family tree that began with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, continued through Abraham and then to King David. Help us to see that Jesus is the fulfillment of your promise to save your people and make us all a part of your family through his birth, life, death and resurrection. We are your own in Jesus, and we are grateful. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Reading

Genesis 15:1–6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Reading

Romans 1:1–4

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Reading

Matthew 1:1–17

¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

sts. 1–4

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

*Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain
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Sermon

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

sts. 5–8

- 5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

- 6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

- 7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

- D 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

*Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobier, 1973
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Apostles' Creed

- C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

Prayers (Each petition concludes with the following response)

- P O Jesus Christ, who entered into our human family,
C **bless us in all we do as the family of God.**

Lord's Prayer

- C 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
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

- P Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.
C **Amen.**

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

sts. 1, ref, 4–5, 7

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain
- ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain
- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

*Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
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