Liturgy for November 29, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

Processional Hymn 56 O Come, Emmanuel

[1] O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel

[2] O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.
Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel

[3] O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice Immanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel

Priest: Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins;

People: His mercy endures forever.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Prayer *(Said by all)*

As we begin our Advent pilgrimage, grant us the courage to hope. Hope for your presence, hope for your peace, hope for your promise. Let us light the Candle of Hope.

Kyrie *(Sung)* **Hymnal, S92**

Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in 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.

A Reading from Isaiah 64:1-9 read by Larry Wolf

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 Qui regis Israel To be read responsively, led by Larry Wolf

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

A Reading from Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians 1:3-9 Read by Sharon DeVivo
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn 693 Just As I Am Without One Plea *(Verses 1-2, Gospel, Verses 3-4)*

[1] Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

[2] Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

[3] Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

[4] Just as I am, thou wilt receive;
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ (Remain standing)*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord
People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ*

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Varghese Mathew

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer for Peace (read together, led by Sharon DeVivo)

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for Our Country (read together, led by Sharon DeVivo)

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will.

Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayers of the People (remain standing): Led by Sharon DeVivo

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For all bishops, priests and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially…….

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life—those we name in our hearts, and also for those celebrating birthdays, including……

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, especially…..

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you

Silence.

The Priest adds a Concluding Prayer

The Confession and Absolution *(please kneel as you are able)*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

The Peace

Priest	The peace of the Lord be also with you
People	And also with you

Announcements and Recognition of Birthdays and Anniversaries

Offertory Anthem ***Come Quickly, Lord Jesus*** **Mark Schweitzer**

Doxology *(please stand)* **"Old Hundredth"**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all people here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving BCP p. 361 (Eucharistic Prayer A)

Priest The Lord be with you
People *And also with you*
Priest Lift up your hearts
People *We lift them up to the Lord*
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People *It is right to give him thanks and praise*

Priest continues with Eucharistic Prayer

Sanctus *(Sung Hymnal S 131)*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation *(Sung, Hymnal S 135)*

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Amen *(Sung* Hymnal S 147*)*

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
P*eople: Therefore let us keep the feast.*

Agnus Dei (Sung) Hymnal S 157

Oh Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Oh Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Oh Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Communion Hymn 370 I Bind Unto Myself Today

[1] I bind unto myself today
the strong Name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three.

[2] I bind this day to me for ever,
by power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;
his baptism in the Jordan river;
his death on cross for my salvation;
his bursting from the spiced tomb;
his riding up the heavenly way;
his coming at the day of doom:
I bind unto myself today.

[3] I bind unto myself the power
of the great love of cherubim;
the sweet "Well done" in judgment hour;
the service of the seraphim;
confessors' faith, apostles' word,
the patriarchs' prayers, the prophets' scrolls;
all good deeds done unto the Lord,
and purity of virgin souls.

[4] I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the star-lit heaven
the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea,
around the old eternal rocks.

Communion Hymn 677 God Moves in a Mysterious Way

[1] God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform:
he plants his footsteps in the sea,
and rides upon the storm.

[2] Deep in unfathomable mines,
with never-failing skill,
he treasures up his bright designs,
and works his sovereign will.

[3] Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.

[4] Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
he hides a smiling face.

[5] His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour:
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

Post-Communion Prayer (Kneel) Book of Common Prayer p. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Dismissal

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Closing Hymn 57 Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

[1] Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

[2] Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see,

[3] Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

[4] Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!