



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020

Service of the Word

11:00 a.m.

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

✝ GATHERING ✝

*The Holy Spirit
gathers us in unity
on the first day of
the week
(Isaiah 48:14
John 4:23-24
Acts 20:7)*

*We worship on the
first day of the
week because our
Savior was raised
on that day. Every
Sunday celebrates
the Lord's
Resurrection.*

*We confess our
sins to God and
receive God's
assurance of
forgiveness
(1 John 1:8-9;
Eph. 4:32;
1 Jn. 2:12)*

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Rejoice, Rejoice* (ELW 242)

Mark Sedio

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ✝ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

ELW 242

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

Rejoice, Rejoice



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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(2 Corinthians
13:13-14)

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Asking for
God's mercy
(Luke 17:13;
18-38-39,
Psalm 123:3)

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



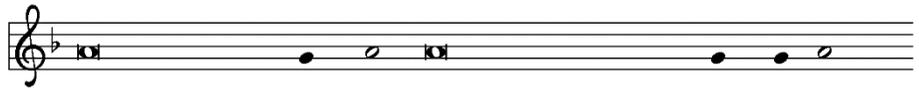
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

*This prayer
“collects”
the theme of
the day.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ THE WORD OF GOD ✠

*This reading is
typically from
the Hebrew
Scriptures,
which Jesus
often quoted.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

The reading is from the 64th chapter of Isaiah.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*We acclaim the
living Word,
Jesus Christ,
present in the
gospel reading.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Gospel Verse: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.*

*Appointed
reading of God's
Word from the
four Gospels
(Matthew, Mark,
Luke, John)*

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases slurred together. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff includes a 'Refrain' section, indicated by the word 'Refrain' above the notes. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

“Viva Vox,” the
Living Word of God
interpreted
(Romans 10:14-17)

SERMON

Pastor Patrick Ballard

SOLO

Never weather-beaten sail

Thomas Campion

Sarah Berger, soprano

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore. Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more, Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast: O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest. Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise. Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes: Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see: O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

Ancient church councils adopted the summary of the church's faith in the Nicene, Apostles' and Athanasian Creeds

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole Christian church on earth, we recall the Creed spoken on the day of our baptism that continues to shape our faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. (1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 2:42)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Extending God's word of peace to others (Romans 16:16; Matthew 5:23-24)

EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

*We present tithes
and offerings for
God's ministry
and mission.
(1 Corinthians
16:1-4;
Romans 12:13)*

OFFERING

Please continue to provide generously for the work of the Church by giving online through our congregation's website or by mailing offerings to the office.

ANTHEM

In night's dim shadows lying
arr. George Guest

In night's dim shadows lying, our limbs fast locked in sleep, to thee with faithful sighing, our souls their vigil keep. Desire of every nation, hear, Lord, our piteous cry. Thou Word, the world's salvation, uplift us where we lie. Lord, be thine Advent hastened lest sin thy people mar. The gates which Adam fastened, the gates of heaven unbar. Son, to thine endless merit, Redeemer, Savior, Friend, with Sire and Holy Spirit be praises without end.

- Charles Coffin

*We give thanks
for the living
Word of God
(Hebrews 4:12)*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God, the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait, we praise you for joining us to your people of old. We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness and promise a new earth with peace for all. For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord, who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world, and proclaims your way of mercy and truth. For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God. **We magnify you, O God.**

Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word. Nurture our faith with your grace, accompany us with your might, and empower our zeal for your justice and joy. For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

All praise to you, holy God, today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**

*Jesus teaches his
disciples to pray
(Luke 11:2-4;
Matthew 6:9-13)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

*A personal
blessing from God
in the name of the
Triune God
(Numbers 6:24-26)*

BENEDICTION

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.

Amen.

*On our way
rejoicing
(Colossians 3:16;
Philippians 4:4)*

CLOSING HYMN

ELW 246

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”

Merton



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!”
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv’n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

*Going forth to
bless the world
(Luke 7:50;
Romans 10:12-13)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Plein Jeu on Merton (ELW 246)

Richard Webster

*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in memory of their mothers,
by Joyce & Charlie Rommel.*

Trio

*Sarah Berger, soprano
Rebecca Berger, alto
Douglas Jones, tenor*

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