

A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:30 A.M.

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

PRELUDE

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” Hahn

DOLORES GROSS

INTRODUCTION

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C **Amen**

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

P Loving and forgiving God,

C **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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.



Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

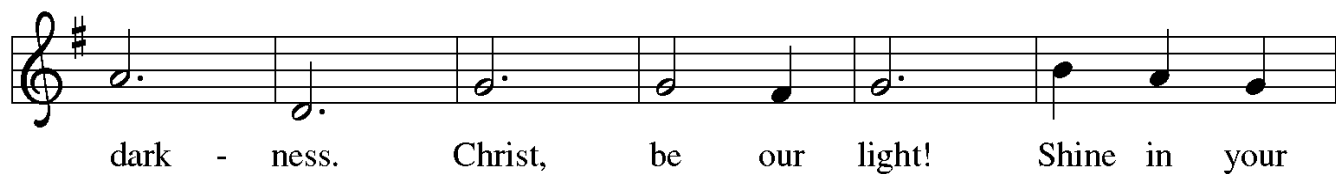
GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

WE LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

- P If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent!
- A The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence.” So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.
- P We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can and do meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still seek us and see us, though we feel we are lost in the dark and the rubble. We hope, trusting that when we place our hope in you, we have a sure and certain hope indeed.
- A Savior Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C 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

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as 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!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From 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.
⁵You 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.
⁶We 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.
⁷There 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.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

- A ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- C ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- A ³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- C ⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- A ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- C ⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- A ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- C ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- A ¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- C ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

After the reading:

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then 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.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It 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. ³⁵Therefore, 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, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR AARON LAYNE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"An Invitation to Advent" Schram
PASTOR AARON AND MATT PITTMAN

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

THE PRAYERS

After each portion of the prayers:

A Hear us, O God.
C Your mercy is great.

LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
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

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

Vss. 1 & 2 LBW # 25

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

This morning the Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of her mother, Margaret Marks from Jean Pontious and in celebration of George Zaebst's birthday from Beckie.

The 2021 flower chart is located in the Narthex above the Usher's stand. Please sign up to purchase flowers for that special someone or to celebrate a date or memory. All vases are \$22.00 each. **Open Dates are Jan 6, 13 and 20.**



	10:30 A.M.
READER	BRENT WELCH
ASSISTING MINISTER	BRENT WELCH
PASTOR	THE REV. AARON LAYNE