

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

29 November 2020



Stir up Your power, and come! The psalmist plea (Psalm 80:2) has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for God to show up, to save, to restore. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us in the scriptures, the waters of baptism, the eucharistic meal, and the community of faith. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Keep awake, for His coming is certain and His day draws near.

+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism.

P. In the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. God of steadfastness and love

C. we confess that we love the works of darkness more than Your light. We have sought to satisfy our deepest longings through material things of creation rather than through You, our Creator. We are quick to judge others, yet we fail to see our own shortcomings. We ignore the cries of the poor and grow weary of working for justice. Restore us, O God; let Your face shine on us, that we may be saved. Amen.

P. With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us, Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ and by His authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. Almighty God keep you in the grace of Christ Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit + fill you with joy and hope.

C. Amen.

GREETING

- P. From the One who was, and who is, and who is to come. Grace and peace be with you all.
C. And also with you.

KYRIE

- P. O Lord, have mercy and come to us.
C. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, spreading through all creation.
C. **Come and teach us wisdom.**

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, Who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai.
C. **Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.**

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, to Whom the nations will do homage.
C. **Come quickly to deliver us.**

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior.
C. **Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by Your strength, save us from 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.
C. **Amen**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING. Isaiah 64:1–9

This communal lament comes from a people who have had their hopes and dreams shattered. The great visions of a restored 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.

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, You that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up Your strength and come to help us.
³Restore us, O God of hosts;
let Your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will You be angered despite the prayers of Your people?
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
You have given them bowls of tears to drink.
⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let Your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
¹⁷Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand,
the son of man You have made so strong for Yourself.
¹⁸And so will we never turn away from You;
give us life, that we may call upon Your name.
¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let Your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

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

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 13:24–37

In today's reading, Jesus encourages His followers to look forward to the day when He returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said] “But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ 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.

²⁸ 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. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that He is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

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

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Jer - u - sa - lem, at last.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - ces, and at the



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth you maid - ens! Night is past.



The Bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!



Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your - selves to meet the Lord,



Whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.

- 2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, and in her heart new joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom, for her Lord comes down all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Oh, come You Blesséd One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna!
We go until the halls we view where You have bid us dine with You.
- 3 Now let all the heav'ns adore You, and saints and angels sing before You.
The harps and cymbals all unite. Made of pearl each shining portal,
where, dwelling with the choir immortal, we gather round Your dazzling light.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thund'ring might of such glory.
What joy we'll know! Your halls resound, hosannas blend in cosmic sound.

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 +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Let us pray. Lord God,

C. **accept the offerings we bring this day, the work of our hands, the gifts of our labor, our lives to serve You. Gladden our hearts as we watch for Your coming and help us to share that joy with all the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to our weary world. Hear our prayers for joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

A brief silence.

Give light to Your people, Lord. As the darkness grows and we await the return of daylight, give new life to Your church. Open our hearts to Your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as You drawn near. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore Your creation, Lord. Protect the animals – wild, farmed and domestic. We pray for devastated habitats and polluted waters. Calm the storms that devastate the coasts and end the droughts that devastate the land. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring peace to the nations, Lord. Grant that leaders protect all who are poor or oppressed and respond with justice and relief for those who suffer. We pray especially for the people of Honduras who are recovering from back-to-back hurricanes. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for You. We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes or who are facing eviction, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. We pray also for those who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction and illness, especially Merv, Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Lynette, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Bill Ningen, Gail, Tom and Carol. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us during this season. Save all peoples from the coronavirus. Sustain medical workers, and provide for hospitals and clinics. Heal the sick, accompany the dying, and comfort the mourners. Give Your beauty to our holiday preparations in this challenging season and Your grace to the many who have little to celebrate this year. Hear us, O God.
C. Your mercy is great.

From ages past, Your faithfulness has never failed. We give thanks for all the faithful: for Andrew, the first disciple to follow Jesus., for those who died while waiting for justice and peace, for those whose names we know, especially Mavis, and those whose names are known only to You. Shine Your face upon us and bring us at the end into the company of all Your saints in light. Hear us, O God.
C. Your mercy is great.

We raise our prayers to You, O God, in the name of the One Who is, Who was, and Who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 +

SOLEMN BLESSING FOR ADVENT

P. May God be with you as you keep watch for the One Whose Advent is promised.
C. Amen

P. May God embolden your witness to Christ's coming and so prepare His way.
C. Amen

P. May you be found ready and alert at Christ's return, at peace in body, mind and spirit,
and doing His will. C.Amen

P. And may God almighty, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *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

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.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings.

DISMISSAL

P. The coming of the Lord is near. Come, Lord, and do not tarry.
C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Kyrie written by The Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel

Those who Serve.

Ministers. All the People of God

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>

November 22, 2020

General: \$1,679.50 (\$929.50 received through eGiving)

Savings: \$20.00 for organ.



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