



# Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ***

**First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2017**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who comes to wake us from sleep, who  
leads us into the light of grace.

**C: Amen.**



**P:** Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. (A brief silence.)  
God of all time,

**C:** **We confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**



**P:** Comfort, o comfort my people, says your God.  
In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all  
things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

**C: Amen.**



**OPENING HYMN**    *“Hark, the Glad Sound!”*

**Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.**



**He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.**



**He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.**



**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.**



**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.**



# INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80 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.

**C: Amen.**



# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen**



# Advent Hymn ~ Lighting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Candle



1 Oh, come, oh, 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.



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



# PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

**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.**





## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah, the 64<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



# A RESPONSIVE READING FROM PSALM 80

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

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



R: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**



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

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



R: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**



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

**C: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your  
face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**



## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



# “ALLELUIA”



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.



# **GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

**P:** The holy gospel according to Mark, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: 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.”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**



# SERMON

**“Are You Awake?”**



# HYMN OF THE DAY

***“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”***

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,

he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.



**To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**



**In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.**



**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.**



# **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**



# Prayers of Intercession

P: Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of 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. Shape our communities to be faithful vessels of the gospel for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** Restore your creation, Lord. You give the earth opportunities for both sleep and awakening. Thank you for the gift of restful seasons so new life may grow according to your appointed time. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** Bring peace to the nations, Lord. Keep us alert to injustice and oppression, give us courage to cry out for what is right, and guide world leaders toward fairness and peace for all.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for you. Be near to those whose lives are shaken, those who are experiencing loss, those who long for healing and wholeness, those who live with HIV and AIDS, and those who are in any kind of need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** We pray for child care workers, teachers, Sunday school leaders, and all who nurture and educate children. We give you thanks for their diligence and devotion. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** From ages past, your faithfulness has never failed. Shine your face upon us and bring us into the company of all your saints.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**



# SHARING PEACE

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**



**~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~**

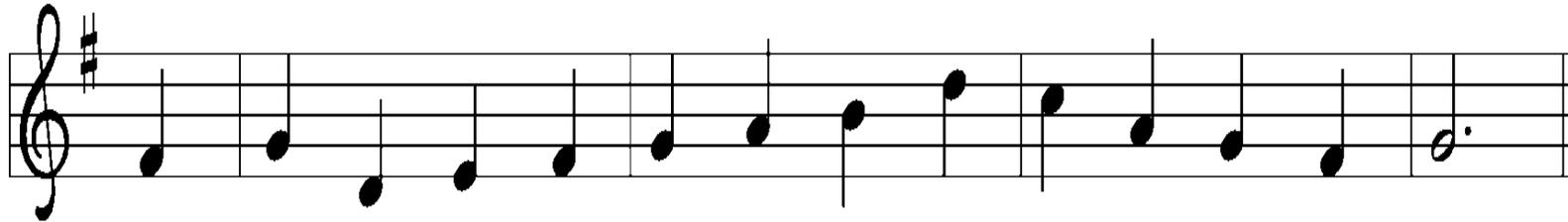
***“Joy To The World”* by David Phelps**



# OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.



# OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith may shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

**C:** Amen.



# DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION



# **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.**



# ~ COMMUNION ~



# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



# BLESSING

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C:** Amen



# **CLOSING HYMN “Choral Benediction”**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May it show us where to travel,**

**lead us back if we should stray.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**



**May the love of God live in us today.  
May the love of God live in us today.  
May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.  
May the love of God live in us today.**



**May the peace of God be with us today.  
May the peace of God be with us today.  
May it guide us and protect us,  
as we go our separate ways.  
May the peace of God be with us today.**



# DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



















































