

# First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

10:15 am

## Prelude

## Welcome

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.

## Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

## Greeting Hymn: ELW #241 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

- 1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.**
- 2. I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free. I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me. A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.**
- 3. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me. Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.**

**4. Rejoice, then, you sad hearted, who sit in deepest gloom, who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom. All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come, send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.**

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### **Prayer of the Day**

**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.**

## *Readings and Psalm*

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

<sup>2</sup>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!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,

and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

### **Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the <sup>l</sup>bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup>**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**

*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.*

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

*Alleluia. (Ps. 85:7)*

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Mark, beginning with the Thirteenth chapter.

**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:] <sup>24</sup>"In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and  
glory. <sup>27</sup>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.

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

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

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day: ELW #438 "My Lord, What a Morning"

*Refrain:*     **My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.**

- 1. You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (refrain)**
- 2. You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (refrain)**
- 3. You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (refrain)**

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## Apostle's 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.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **Offering**

### **Offering Hymn ELW #686 "We Give Thee I Own" 1<sup>st</sup> verse**

- 1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

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## **Offering Prayer**

**God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

## **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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

## **Communion Distribution**

### **Distribution Hymn: ELW #715 "Christ, Be Our Light"**

**1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*Refrain:* **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

**2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain:***

**3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. *Refrain:***

**4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for worth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain:***

**5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let  
us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain:***

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## **Post-communion Blessing Prayer after Communion**

### **Blessing**

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn: ELW #439 "Soon and Very Soon"**

- 1. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very Soon we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 2. No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 3. No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.**
- 4. Son and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon we are goin' to see the Kin, Soon and very Soon we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

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## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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