

Joy Lutheran Church

November 29, 2020



First Sunday of Advent

# Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We are glad you are here, if you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You're welcome if you know the Bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what He is all about.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you as do we!

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## **LIST OF MITIGATION RULES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP**

1. Wear your face mask. We have extras if you need one. Pastor will be more than 10 ft away and remove her mask while presiding.
2. Keep 3 empty chairs (i.e. 6 ft.) between you and anyone not in your household
3. No use of hymnals.
4. Keep your mask on during singing and do not sing boisterously. Studies show that singing projects more air than coughing.
5. We will limit the worship service to approximately 35 minutes. The longer people share the same air space the greater the chance of spreading germs.
6. No contact during the passing of the peace. Stay at 6 ft. distances - sharing a peace sign, wave, hand over heart, or clasped hands and bow.
7. Offering plates are in stationary positions near entryways to avoid the passing of the plate. Thank you for your offerings!
8. We ask you to **FILL OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER** inside your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
9. As you are dismissed, exit in a staggered rhythm to decrease proximity to one another.
10. If you use a bathroom, please clean all touchable surfaces before and after usage. Spray disinfectant and paper towels are available in each bathroom.
11. If you would like to visit after worship, we ask you maintain 6 ft. distances.
12. All coffee and food is suspended at this time. Exception is we will offer prepackaged food-to-go for Sunday School students.

## 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.

## Welcome/Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,  
**C: and also with you.**

## Advent Confession

L: Lord God,  
we praise you for sending light into this world.  
We confess that we live as though  
the light had never defeated darkness.  
We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent  
to be among us and to live in us.  
We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season  
and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.

**C: Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus.**

**Prepare us for His return.  
Help us rejoice in the light  
so that your grace can illuminate  
the darkened places of our hearts.**

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

Hymn*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW 257 (v. 1-3)

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

*Refrain*

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

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

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.

### 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 Reading

### **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.”

## Sermon

**Pastor Karen Sonray**

## Hymn

### *My Lord, What a Morning*

ELW 438

*Refrain*

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,  
my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

## Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*(please exchange Christ's peace with a smile, nod, wave, or other non-contact sign)*

## Prayers

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us;**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Benediction

### Sending Hymn

### *O God Beyond All Praising*

ELW 880



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring.

and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:  
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

L: Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Flowers are given  
by Nancy Wojnowski



### **Worship Assistants for Today**

Pianist:	Preacher:	Reader:	Song Leaders:
Kathy Huntington	Pastor Karen Sonray	Ruth Barndt	Mona Mitton