

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
Sunday, November 29, 2020

PRELUDE *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645 J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the \dagger Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *My Lord, What a Morning* #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.

Continued on next page...



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,



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

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

GREETING

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

And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Thank you to the DeLorenze family for leading us in lighting the wreath this week.

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

SONG:*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

#240

Verse 1



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

Pastor Johanna Rehbaum

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume 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!

Continued on next page...

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Let your face shine up - on us and
 we shall be saved, and we shall be saved.

Continued on next page...

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

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Let All Mortal Flesh be silent*

#490 vs. 1

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descend-ing comes full hom-age to de-mand.

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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. 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.

³²“But 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Johanna Rehbaum

REFLECTION (provided by ELCA, <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/3067/>)

Isaiah gives us words for the longings that are present in all the world: “O God, would that you would tear open the heavens and come down!” We are rightly afraid that our sins have delayed and hidden God’s coming to us with healing and hope. We know ourselves to be held by our iniquity rather than held by God, the merciful potter. But in Mark’s Gospel, Jesus joins us in not knowing when the day of healing will be. And in the very next chapter, the Gospel begins to tell of his death. We are to keep awake, like a doorkeeper watching for the return of the homeowner. Then the amazing thing happens. God does come: at evening in the supper when Jesus gives himself away and prays in the garden; at midnight when he is arrested; at cockcrow when he is denied; at dawn when he begins to be taken to the cross; and yet again at dawn when the women at the door of the tomb discover that he is risen. In Mark’s Gospel the heavens have been torn open and God has come among all the world’s suffering. Christ is with us still. Forgiven and strengthened by that word, as Paul says, we may wait for his full revealing. We are called to be doorkeepers still watching on behalf of all the needy world and yet bearing witness to God’s present mercy.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying

#436



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

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thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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**

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he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

OFFERING *This time may be used to make a gift online, or write a check to be mailed in, to sustain the ministries of the Church.*

OFFERTORY Suite No. 5 in E Major, HWV 430: I. Praeclodium G.F. Handel (1685 - 1759)

OFFERTORY HYMN *O Come O Come Emmanuel*, vs 1-2 ELW 257

¹O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
²O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

² O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: ... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one in the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share peace with those around you or online, or write down the name of someone you will text or call later to check up on them and spread Christ's peace to them.

MOMENTS FOR MISSION

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

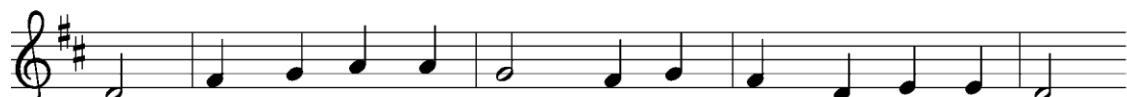
The Lord look upon you with favor and \pm give you peace.

Amen.

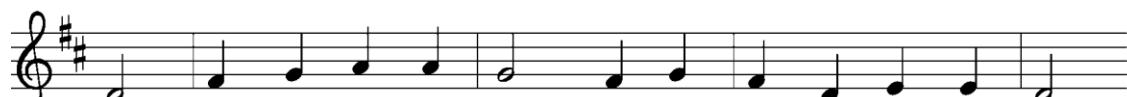
SENDING SONG

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

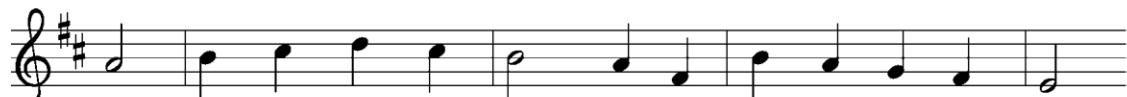
#241



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

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to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite

Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying

Paul Manz (1919 - 2009)

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