

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

For the Gathered –

The Gospel addresses our impatience.

Jesus says he will return to earth in the season of the “Last Days,” but he never nails down which day.

It’s the same impatience of Bethlehem. The elders and young wondering –
when will the baby be born,
when will he set things right,
when will the waiting be over?



Light First Advent Wreath Candle

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – ELW 257 (vs. 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

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

Greeting – ELW 147

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

(All) - And also with you.

Gathering Song – Angels We Have Heard on High – ELW 289

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Assembly may stand

Confession and Forgiveness – ELW 95

(Pastor) 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. Gracious God –

(All) - have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you, and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry, and humbly repent.

**In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done, and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

(Pastor) God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Kyrie – Gift of God

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

Word of mercy, word of justice:

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

Word of prophets, word of people:

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

Holy Word of God made flesh.

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

In the stillness of the nightfall:

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

In the stillness of the heartbeat:

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

In the silence, you are here.

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

You are bread for all who hunger:

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

You are the drink for all the thirsting:

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

You are sacrifice and feast.

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

Gift of God, O Emmanuel

Canticle of Praise – ELW 149

(Liturgist) – This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

(SING) Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free, to be people of God. Power and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever, Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain, has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

(Sit)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins. Keep us innocent and pure, till the coming of the Great New Day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit as one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 64:1-9

The people of God lament before the Lord. Their sure hopes are shattered. Their visions of a rebuilt holy Jerusalem, and a renewed people of God, have been broken. Now, in their sorrow, they call on God.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

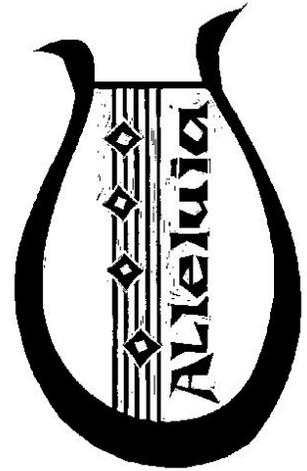
Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock.
Shine forth, you that are enthroned | on the angels.
In the presence of | sons of Jacob,
stir up your strength, | and help us.

Restore us, | O great Lord.
Let your face shine on us, | to save us.
O great Lord, | God of hosts,
how long will you be angry | when we pray?

You have fed us | with our tears.
You have given us | tears to drink.
You made us the derision | of our foes.
Our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

Restore us, | God of Hosts.
Let your face shine on us, | and save us.
Let your hand be on the one | by your side,
the one you made strong | for thy self,

And so will we never | turn from you.
Give us life, so we may call | on your name.
Restore us, | O great Lord.
Let your face shine on us, | to save us.



Epistle Reading – I Corinthians 1:3-9

As many new believers in Corinth await the triumphant return of Christ, Paul reminds them that the Lord is already in their midst with spiritual gifts. And Christ will strengthen them until his final coming day.

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message for the Young at Heart

Special Music

Gospel Announcement – Mark 13:24-37

(Assembly May Stand)

Acclamation – ELW 151

**(ALL SING) - Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

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.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

Message

Hymn of the Day – Once in Royal David’s City – **ELW 269**

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

(Assembly may stand)

Apostles’ Creed – ELW 105

(ALL)

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.**

Sit

Prayers of Intercession

Response

(Liturgist) – Merciful God,

(All) – Receive our prayer.

Offering

Offertory We Are An Offering - W&P 146

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
We are an offering.

Prayer

Let us pray.

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

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving – ELW 152

(PASTOR) - The Lord be with you.

(ALL) - **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.

Pastor's 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Our Response – ELW 153

(ALL SING) - Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer – ELW 154

**(ALL) - 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.**

Words of Institution

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.



Confession Song – “Lamb of God” – ELW 154

**(ALL SING) –
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Grant us peace. Grant us peace.**

Distribution

Prayer after Communion

God for whom we wait, you gave us a foretaste of the day when the hungry will be fed. Send us forth to make known your deeds, and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

(Assembly May Stand)

Sending Song – The Holly and The Ivy

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown

O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,

The holly bears a blossom,
As white as lily flow'r,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our dear Saviour

O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To do poor sinners good

O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,

The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
On Christmas Day in the morn

O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,

The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as the gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
For to redeem us all

O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown

O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,

(Sit)

Announcements

Dismissal –

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

(ALL) - Thanks be to God.

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