



*God's love, Our service.*

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Sunday, November 29, 2020

### First Sunday of Advent

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#### 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/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Mark & Pam Thomas

*Use this blessing when lighting the first candle.*

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for your promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of our Lord. Amen.



## ADVENT HYMN ELW 257, vs. 1

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

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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.**

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

*Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*

<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 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.**

### **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 mas-  
ter 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.”

**CHILDRENS SERMON** Deacon Dave Mareske  
**SERMON** Deacon Dave Mareske

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

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**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**

God of grace and glory, we praise you for your servant Erica Bryer who makes the good news known in Japan. Raise up, we pray, in every country, heralds of the gospel, so that the world may know the immeasurable riches of your love, and be drawn to worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed,

and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. (*Local feeding or housing ministries may be named*). Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 796**



### **How Firm a Foundation**

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

## **BLESSING**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

✝ now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**





## PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.780.6408 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

### **St. Mark's members:**

Ginny Schwartzbeck,  
Shane Paulson,  
Pete Cagle,  
Jeanette Cain,  
Ron & Ann Gardner,  
Darrell Strampe,  
Janet Schmidt,  
Susan Roberts,  
Phyllis Dettmer,  
Jerry Kay Lage,  
Madison Young

### **Family & friends:**

Nell, Sister of Joyce Johnson,  
A.E. Krievins, Father of Janis Krievins,  
Steele McLaren, friend of the Luins,  
Leo Patton, Grandfather of Jason Howe,  
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,  
Rick Thornton, family of the Andersons,  
AJ, Son-in-law of the Andersons,  
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,  
Bruce Campbell, Brother-in-law of Joni Benz,  
Steve Nelson, cousin of Louise Easterberg,  
McKenna, Granddaughter of the Johnsons,  
Family of Olathe Mayor, Mike Copeland,  
Lena Shelton, friend of the Schmideskamps,  
Crissy, cousin of Tom Bryer ,  
Caroline, aunt of Nancy Bryer ,  
Neil Wray, Son of Lynn and Tom,  
Brian Lynn, cousin of Amy Hackler,  
Jeff Needham, friend of St. Mark's,  
Peggy Hinkle, Step-Mother of Kathy Hinkle,  
Stephanie Herndon, friend of Kathy Hinkle,  
Tim Eiter, Father of Todd Eiter,  
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,  
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,  
Shirley, neighbor of Mary Weeg,  
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,  
Ken Liesche, Brother of 'Sam' Ham,

Don Ham, Brother of Hollie Ham,  
Kelly Franks, Daughter of Hollie and 'Sam' Ham,  
Aeris, Great Niece of Tom Bryer,  
Sammy Schreiman, friend of Kathy Hinkle,  
Catherine Dial, relative of Anne Gardner,  
Karen Bannister, friend of Jane Scherrer,  
"Our little friend",  
Catherine Tietjen, Mary Mindrup's sister ,  
Rob Boulter, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,  
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,  
Joan Nelson, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,  
Dean Taake, Joyce Johnson's brother,  
Gibby, friend of Erica Bryer,  
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,  
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,  
Bob Hinkle, Kathy Hinkle's dad,  
Judy Wendt, Jeannine Matthew's  
sister-in-law,  
Donna Poppe, friend of St. Marks,  
Rosemary Williams & her sons Wayne & Wade  
Beck,  
Brooke Harris, friend of Gretchen Goodheart  
Stewart,  
Dan Ostergaard - friend of the Goodhearts,  
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,  
Jackson Werth, friend of the Bott/Bollinger Families,  
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,  
Ivan, brother of Jane Stresewski,  
All People affected by natural disasters

### **Those in the Military:**

A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thompson,  
Logan Peck, nephew of Karen and Stan Thompson,  
Zack Moran-Prichard, grandson of Hollie and Sam Ham