## First Sunday of Advent

## ~ December 3, 2023 ~ Faith & First

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness** LBW pg. 56 ELW pg. 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from 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.

***C: Amen.***

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

P: Most merciful God,

***C: 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.***

P: 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.

***C: Amen.***

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath “*Hope*”**

# “The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in a land of deep shadow, on them a light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

# Almighty God, grant that the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, may so light our whole lives that we never need again walk in darkness.

**Call to Worship *“Peace, Peace, Peace”****(Tune: Still, Still, Still)*

Hope, hope, hope – the light of Christ is hope. In

All our darkness Christ is shining. Leading upward, faith refining.

Hope, hope, hope – the light of Christ is hope.

**Greeting** LBW pg. 57ELW pg. 138

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

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie** LBW pg. 58ELWPg 138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** LBW pg. 59ELWPg 138

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9**

1O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— 2 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! 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, 6 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.

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

1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon 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.

**4O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?** **Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved.**

5You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6You 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. **17Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.** **Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved.**

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

**19Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved.**

**SECOND READING**: **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so 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.

**GOSPEL**: **Mark 13:24-37**

24But 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. 28From 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. 32But 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."

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”***  LBW #25 ELW #244

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 3 The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings 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.

Vs. 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!

**Apostles’ Creed** LBW pg. 65 ELW pg. 105

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 the People**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world and all who await God’s day of restoration.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live wit hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God; the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who fell hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief especially

Deliver all in any need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be with those who keep awake at night; nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your external presence (especially). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus, Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 145

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** LBW pg. 71ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has 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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*** LBW #36 ELW #249

Vs. 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces

that the Lord is nigh; awake and harken,

for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Vs. 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way

for God within, and let us all our

hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

Vs. 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge

and our great reward; without your grace we

waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Vs. 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us

rise to fall no more; oh, let your face

upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

Vs. 5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent

has our freedom won, whom with the Father

we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

***C: Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**