

First Sunday of Advent: December 3, 2023

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 the God would tear open the heavens and come.

Liturgy and hymns are in the Red Hymnal unless otherwise noted.

Gathering *Indicates to stand if you are able

Prelude and Bell

Welcome and Announcements

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" **#257** (vs 1-4)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (during hymn)

* Confession & Forgiveness (on insert)

* Greeting **pg. 138**

* Prayer of the Day

Word

Isaiah 64:1-9 (page 654 OT in pew Bible)

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (on screen)

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (page 145 NT in pew Bible)

Gospel Acclamation **pg. 142**

* Gospel: Mark 13:24-37 (page 44 NT in pew Bible)

(after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)

(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

Message

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" **#436**

* Statement of Faith: Apostles' Creed **pg. 105**

* Prayers of the Church

* Sharing the Peace

Meal

* Offering

* The Great Thanksgiving **pg. 144**

* "Holy, Holy, Holy" **pg. 144**

* Words of Institution

* The Lord's Prayer

* "Christ, Be Our Light" **#715** vs 1-3 (sung during communion)

Communion Distribution *You are welcome to come to the altar to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer, gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Just ask the server.*

* Post Communion Prayer

Sending

Blessing

"Soon and Very Soon" **#439**

Dismissal and Bell

Remember in your prayers

Anita Stoker, Marla Miller, Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, natural disasters, violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support, Reverend Dr. Philip J. Knutson and Lou Knutson serving in South Africa.

upcoming events and announcements

COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP Join us in the fellowship hall for coffee and treats. All are welcome!

VIDEO/AUDIO TRAINING will take place after worship TODAY for anyone interested in joining the rotation to run the audio/video equipment during worship services and as a refresher course for those currently helping.

LUNCH BUNCH meets on Wednesday, December 6th at 11:30am at Pizza Ranch. All are welcome to join us for lunch!

WOMEN OF FIRST WELCA will meet after worship in the fellowship hall on Sunday, December 10th to talk about end of year donations to charities. Please join us to provide your input.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on Sunday, December 17th at 9:30am. Sunday school will be held at 8:30am that morning.

CHRISTMAS TREATS NEEDED! Christmas goodies are needed for the annual Christmas Dinner held at First Lutheran on Monday, December 25. If you can provide some treats, please sign up in the Narthex.

FOR RENT Studio apartment for rent above Common Cup Coffeehouse. For more information, please contact Abby at 320-287-3417.

HELP NEEDED! First Lutheran is in need of worship servants! If you are willing to help serve as an usher/head usher, communion preparer, communion server, nursery attendant or an audio/video tech, please contact the church office. Training will be provided!

SUNDAY SCHOOL upcoming classes will be held on Sundays, December 3rd and 17th from 8:30--9:30am. Students are encouraged to attend worship on the Sundays that classes do not meet.

Today's Worship Servants: Sunday, December 3

Ushers: Al Harris, Linda Holland, Jon Ulrich

Lector: Denise Odello **Nursery:** Jone Anderson

Acolyte: Jacoby Burnett & Wes Odello

Communion Prep: Vicki Dalager (bread)

Communion Servers: Bob Dalager, Doug & Sharon Ehlers

Video: Mike Odello & Kye Suess **TV slides:** Jennie Odello

Next Week's Worship Servants: Sunday, December 10

Ushers: Dick Smith, Laurie Feuchtenberger, Dave Jungst

Lector: Lindy Ekola **Nursery:** Pam Wiese

Acolyte: Braeden Huebner & Dane Dybdahl

Video: Steve Wagner **TV slides:** Chance Buro

welcome

First Lutheran Church, ELCA

Chosen by Christ - Empowered to Serve

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Website: www.flcmorris.org

Facebook: *Morris-First Lutheran Church*

YouTube: *First Lutheran Church - Morris MN*

(all services are live streamed via Facebook and YouTube)

Office email: office@flcmorris.org

TODAY: Sunday, Dec 3

8:30am: Sunday school

9:30am: Worship with Holy Communion

10:30am: Coffee/Fellowship

2:00-4:00pm: Girl Scouts

Monday, Dec 4

no events scheduled

Tuesday, Dec 5

11:00am: Pastor's Text Study

Wednesday, Dec 6

11:30am: Lunch Bunch at Pizza Ranch

6:00-7:30pm: Element Classes

7:00-8:30pm: Sr. Fusion

Thursday, Dec 7

8:30am: Share & Care (quilting group)

Friday, Dec 8

no events scheduled

Saturday, Dec 9

8:00am: Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran

Sunday, Dec 10

9:30am: Worship

10:30am: Coffee/Fellowship

10:30am: WELCA Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Confession & Forgiveness

As followers of Christ, we are always on a journey. On our pilgrimage there is no time when we can afford to stop growing in love, in strength, and in knowledge of God. So it is that when we gather to worship we must confess those places in which we need to grow. In preparation for the coming of the Christ, let us confess our need for growth, in silence before God.

(silence for self reflection)

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of the darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ; you continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. Amen.

God is light! In God there is no darkness! Arise! Shine! Our Light awaits!

We are forgiven. Our future awaits us with hope. We will walk in the light of God's grace!

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.



Once again we will be having a Poinsettia Garden around our altar to decorate for Christmas. If you would like to order a plant to contribute to this garden, please fill out this form and return it to the church office by **Sunday, December 17th**. Your poinsettia may be in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

Poinsettia Plant (\$12.00) _____ (Quantity)

Given by: _____

In loving memory of:

Or... In honor of:

Please note: if you wish to keep your poinsettia plant, it can be picked up after 9:30am Christmas Eve Service. Any plants left at the church after January 2nd will be disposed of.