

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, November 29, 2020: First Sunday in Advent

Gathering

We enter into Advent, a season of longing and anticipation; longing for God's presence and saving power, with the Psalmist we pray "Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved." (Psalm 80:7)

Welcoming & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Confession & Forgiveness

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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 your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" #240

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| 1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise. | 2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah;
let the light banish the darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward. |
| 3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory. | 4. Light four candles to watch for Messiah;
let the light banish the darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining! |

Text: Wayne L Wold, Music: Yiddish folk tune. © 1984 Fortress Press. Used with permission under One License #A-710041

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.*

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.

Word

Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

Reading: Psalm 80:17, 17-19

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

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, **stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God; **let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

O Lord, God of hosts, **how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

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

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, **and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

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

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, **the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

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

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

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37 (*response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord***)

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."

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

Message

Hymn: "My Lord, What a Morning" #438

1. My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.
2. My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.
3. My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.
You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall.

Text & Music: African spiritual. Public Domain.

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 again 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.**

Offering/Offertory “Create In Me a Clean Heart” #188

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.

Music: J.A. Freylinghausen. Public Domain

Prayers

Lord’s Prayer

Sharing the Peace *Please share a sign of peace with one another*

Sending

Hymn: “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #254

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| <p>1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev’ry nation,
joy of ev’ry longing heart.</p> | <p>2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.</p> |
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Text: Charles Wesley, Music: W. Walker. Public Domain.

Benediction

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Remember in your prayers

Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support, Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.