

Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 19, 2020 - Advent 1

Welcome *Today we would like to thank Don & Heidi Wilker for reading the lessons.*

Greeting

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.*

Call to Worship for the Beginning of Advent ~ from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand (abridged).

We wait in the darkness,
expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully.

The darkness is our friend.
*It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendour of the universe –
blankets of stars, the solitary glowing of the planets.*

Sometimes in the solitude of the darkness
our fears and concerns, our hopes and visions rise to the surface.
We come face to face with ourselves and with the road that lies ahead of us.

In that same darkness we sometimes allow ourselves to wonder and worry whether
the human race is going to survive.
*And then, in the darkness we know that you are with us, O God, yet still we
await your coming.*

In the darkness that contains both our hopelessness and our hope, we watch for a sign
of God's hope.
For you are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.

Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer (Written by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson)

Light one candle for hope.
Because the world is broken and the wait is long, but hope just won't let go.
Hope holds space for all our longings, lingers on the edge of harsh reality
like the dawn gently awakening the sky.
"Keep awake," she whispers, "for the world is being made new."
So we light one candle, because it only takes one: Christ with us.

(Light the first candle on the advent wreath)

Song – The King Has Come ¹

The King has come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

The Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9

O 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!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 13:24-37

‘But 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.’

Reflection

Song: My Lord, What A Morning²

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.

1. You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain.*

2. You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain.*

3. You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain.*

Prayers of the People (written by Rev. J.D. Ashby)

We pray: *Lord, in your mercy...* and respond: *Hear our prayer.*

Holy Communion (Zoom Only)

The Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us;

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Song – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You³

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a-right?
A people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight.
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

I lay in fetters groaning; you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honour me.
A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high
that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace

in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed and tremble at you doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. *C: Thanks be to God*

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² ELW hymn #438. African American Spiritual. In the Public Domain.

³ ELW hymn #241. Text: Paul Gerhardt. Music: Johann Cruger. In the Public Domain.