

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3rd, 2023



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO
Pastor Seth Georgson
314-914-6457

THE COMMON SERVICE

Gathering Rite

The choir introduces the refrain.

The congregation repeats the refrain and sings it as indicated.

Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.

Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Lord, we await your coming to our world;

Bring us the gift of salvation. ***Refrain***

Lord, you are hope and healing for our world;

Come, now, and bring us your good news. ***Refrain***

Come, O come, O Come, Emmanuel;

Come with us on earth here to dwell. ***Refrain***

Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber;

Banish the darkness of night. ***Refrain***

Child of the light and love beyond all telling,

Fill our hearts with wonder and praise. ***Stand for the final Refrain***

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

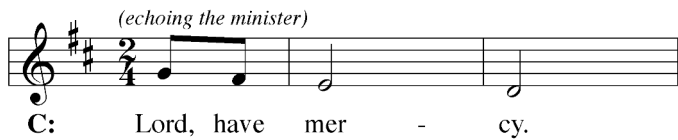
C: A - men.

Lord, Have Mercy

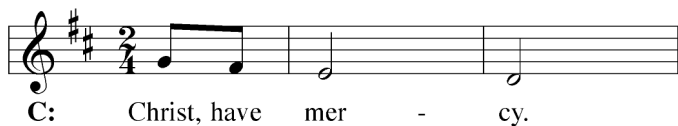
Kyrie

M: At the end of time the Lord Jesus will come again in glory. It is good for us to be watchful and ready for his return.

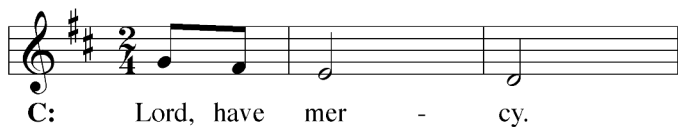
Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.



M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.



M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.



M: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



Absolution

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory be to God

Gloria in Excelsis



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1-8

You, the LORD, are our Father.
Our Redeemer from everlasting is your name.
Why do you cause us to wander from your ways,
LORD?
Why do you harden our heart so that we do not
fear you?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes that are your heritage. ...

Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and
come down.
Mountains then would quake because of your
presence.
As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil,
make your name known to your adversaries.
Then nations would quake in your presence.
You did amazing things that we did not expect.
You came down. Mountains quaked because of
your presence.
From ancient times no one has heard.
No ear understood.

No eye has seen any god except you,
who goes into action for the one who waits for
him.
You meet anyone who joyfully practices right-
eousness,
who remembers you by walking in your ways!
But you were angry because we sinned.
We have remained in our sins for a long time.

Can we still be saved?
All of us have become like something unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.
All of us have withered like a leaf,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
There is no one who calls on your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you.
So you hid your face from us.
You made us melt by the power of our guilt.
But now, LORD, you are our father.
We are the clay, and you are our potter.
All of us are the work of your hand.

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 24

CW p.73

Refrain

Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it,*
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas*
and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?*

Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,*
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?*

The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,*
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?*

The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, because the testimony about Christ was established in you. As a

result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Verse of the Day

Revelation 22:20

Tune: CW 2



C: He whose eyes do blaze like flames, He who
holds the stars pro - claims, "Yes, I'm com - ing
soon to you." Come, O Lord, our hearts re - new!

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Stand.

Gospel ----- Mark 13:32-37

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only

the Father. Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. It is like a

man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the

house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!"

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- Savior of the Nations, Come

CW 2 — Congregation: 1,3; Choir: 2,4

1. **Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, make here your home.**
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. *(Choir)* Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
3. **Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child Of the virgin undefiled,**
Though by all the world disowned, Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!
4. *(Choir)* From the Father's throne he came And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell—High the song of triumph swell!
5. **Praise to God the Father sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,**
Praise to God the Spirit be Ever and eternally.

Sermon ----- Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1-8

Oh, That the Lord Would Come Down

Stand.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Online giving option:

mluther.org/give

Offerings support the spread

of the Gospel here and around the world.



Prayer of the Church

*The minister calls for the petitions and the congregation prays with “**Lord, have mercy.**”*

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the Lord’s grace and peace as we enter another Church Year, that God who is faithful would confirm the testimony about Christ among us as we wait for His revealing, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For Mark Schroeder, our Synod president; Dennis Klatt, our district president; Edwin Lehmann, our circuit pastor; and all pastors in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: That the Lord would renew the faith and quicken the love of all Christians, that we may be enriched in all speech and knowledge, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

- M: For the blessing of marriage and the faithfulness of husbands and wives; for the children entrusted to their care; for the loving care of children who have suffered abuse or neglect; and for those who open their homes to children in foster care, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For our nation, its leaders and our armed forces, that God would take them under His care and let His blessing rest upon them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For the sick, troubled, grieving and dying, that they may receive grace according to God's merciful will, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For all who await the second advent of Christ, that their shouts of "hosanna" might be answered now through Word and Sacrament and soon by Jesus' return, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: Gracious Father, You have made us glad to enter into Your presence to hear the good news of our Savior and receive Your gifts. Preserve Your Church against all her enemies, and lead us to walk in Your ways and to follow Your paths, that when Jesus returns in His glory we may welcome Him with glad hosannas; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- C: 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.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ----- O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

CW 22

1. O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.
2. O Morning Star, O radiant Dawn, When will we sing your morning song?
Come, Son of God! Without your light
We grope in dread and gloom of night.
3. Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand From exile to our promised land.
4. There shall we all our praises bring And sing to you, our Savior-King;
There shall we laud you and adore Forever and forevermore.

Hymn ----- Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

CWS 704

1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending, Once for ev'ry sinner slain.
Thousand, thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.
2. Ev'ry eye shall now behold him Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who ridiculed and sold him, Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, Deeply wailing, Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

3. Those dear tokens of his passion Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation To his ransomed worshipers.
With what wonder, With what wonder, With what wonder,
Gaze we on those glorious scars.
4. Yea, Amen, let all adore you High on your eternal throne.
Ev'ry knee shall bow before you; Come and take your people home!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
You shall reign and you alone!

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

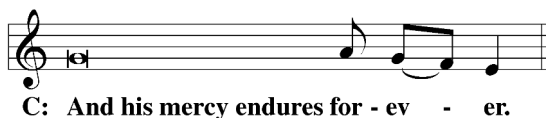
Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



Be seated.

Hymn ----- Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

CW 15

1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 "Cast away the works of darkness; You are children of the day."
2. Lo, the Lamb, so long-expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
 Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n,
3. That, when next he comes with glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
 He may shield us with his mercy And with words of love draw near.
4. Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son
 With the everlasting Spirit While eternal ages run!

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