

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Prelude

Alfred V. Fedak, "*Es ist Ein' Ros' Variations*"

Confession & Forgiveness

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 whom 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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage 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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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 all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Greeting

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

C: Amen

Kyrie

ELW 257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: We praise you, Heavenly Father, for the Advent of your Son and the promise of your kingdom. As we light the first candle of this Advent Wreath, rouse us from sleep that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Grant this through Christ our Lord whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen

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.

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—
- ²as 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,
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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Hymn

Taize: "*Wait for the Lord Whose Day Draws Near*"

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

C: Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“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.

²⁸“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. 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.

³²“But 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

ELW 260 “*The King Shall Come*”

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn

when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

Apostle's Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: God of majesty, we pray for the advent of your kingdom, and your reign of peace throughout the world, when violence and war give way to healing and life and the veil of darkness is cast off your world. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: God of grace and truth, let the light of your church shine forth in the world. Illuminate your church with the grace and love of your Son and fill your people with gratitude and faith. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: Father in Heaven, we pray for the advent of your Son as glorious Lord of all; bringing light to those who dwell in darkness, joy to those in sorrow, hope to those in fear and despair.

End the darkness of this pandemic and bring forth your healing light. We pray especially for those we name before you Dennis, Carol, Nancy, Pastor Steve Swanson, Renee, Vicki, Rhea, Father Jim... (pause for names). Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: Blessed are you, O God, Lord of all creation, we give you thanks for the ministries of our congregation, and the blessings of Concordia Church and Concordia Place and Concordia Day. Use us to make radiant the lives of those you have called us to serve. We ask this through him whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: 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.
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.**

Anthem

Felix Mendelssohn: *"If with all your Hearts"*

Closing Hymn

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

- 1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.

- 3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thund'ring might
of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.

Benediction and Dismissal

P: Go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Proclaim the gospel throughout the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness,
with deeds of justice and mercy!

C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Johann Gottfried Walther, "Werde munter, meine Gemüte"

Announcements

- In light of the latest updates and changes made to worship at Concordia (livestream only), the Musicians of Concordia have decided to present a program of familiar holiday tunes to uplift and brighten all of our spirits. We'll be presenting a **virtual Lessons & Carols** program that will be distributed over the course of the 4 weeks of Advent. Beginning in December, we will release 3 Lessons & Carols each Wednesday. For the final Wednesday of Advent, we will release all 9 with some "bonus tracks" as a special concert and celebration of Christmas at Concordia. Further details of timing and where to watch the releases to be shared soon. We hope you can join us for some holiday cheer!
- We want our children to be able to participate in Sunday worship and learn about God's love for them, even while we cannot hold classes or activities here at church. Concordia Church is mailing (monthly) resources to families that include a weekly bulletin with fun activities/lessons that corresponds to that week's readings and a coloring page for each child in the home. If you would like to receive these monthly mailings of children's faith resources, or if you have any questions, please connect with Jen Phillips at jphillips@concordiafaith.org or call her at 773-463-1600 x 402. We also enjoy hearing from you – we invite you to connect and share how things are going for you and let us know how we can support your child's growth in faith at home.
- We appreciate your continued gifts to Concordia Church! Remember, you may give in three ways:
 1. Text-to-give: Text "Concordia" to 73256 and follow the link you receive
 2. Give online at onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give
 3. Send a check via mail to the church