

# The First Sunday of Advent

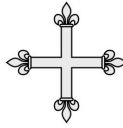
November 29, 2020, 9:00 am



**Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School**  
9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

[www.saintluke.us](http://www.saintluke.us) | 301-588-4363

*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 that God would tear open the heavens and come.*



## Gathering

### Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645  
(*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

### Welcome

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;**  
**we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another.**  
**Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**  
**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
☩ comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

# Opening Hymn

ELW 436



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite  
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

## 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.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,  
**let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

## Response

*Please sing the following to the tune HANOVER.*

The candle of hope we light in this hour  
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.  
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,  
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
Music: HANOVER, William Croft (1678-1727)

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

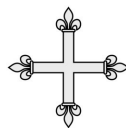
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Musical Reflection

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Augsburg Bell Choir  
JEFFERSON, arr. Sandra Eithun



# Word

## First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19


*The choir introduces the refrain; the congregation repeats it. Please sing the verses in bold.. Subsequent refrains are sung only once by all, at the places indicated by **R**.*



Let your face shine up - on us and  
we shall be saved, and we shall be saved.

Psalm 80:7

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**  
**stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore | us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD| God of hosts,**  
**how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the | bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**  
**and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**  
**the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- | way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;**  
**let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

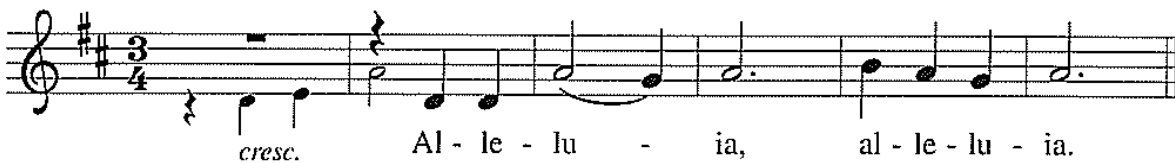
*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

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 Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



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*Choir* Alleluia, alleluia.  
*All* **Alleluia, alleluia.**  
*Choir* Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. (Ps. 85:7)  
*All* **Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

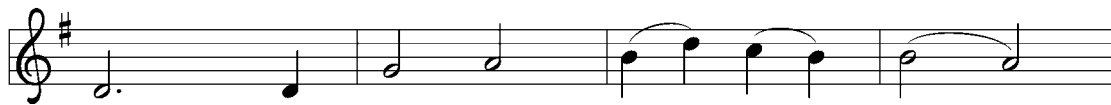
Pastor Miller

Hymn of the Day

ELW 435



1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:  
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799



## **Apostles' Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 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**

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

Hear us, O God,  
**Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



# Thanksgiving

## Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at [saintluke.us](http://saintluke.us) then click *Giving* or on the Give Plus app. You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## *Music at the offering*

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort;  
O let me ne'er in sorrow pine,  
My heart and soul, yea, all my being,  
O Jesus, trust alone in Thee.

Thou Prince of Peace,  
Thou Pearl from heaven,  
True God, true Man,  
My Morning Star!  
O come, Thou precious Sun most radiant,  
Thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

Text: W. Osterwald (1820-1887)

Music: Johann W. Franck (1644-1710), arr. Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**God of goodness and hope you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We open our hands and return to you what you have first given us. Accept our offering as a token of our abiding devotion and love. Use these gifts to bring peace, justice and comfort to the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.**

**Amen.**

## Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Let us pray.

**Holy One, Jesus Christ, we know that you are as truly present in our reaching out to one another as in the sacrament of the table. We love you at the heart of all things, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot gather together to receive you in that sacrament, come and abide spiritually in our hearts.**

**Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace. Never let us fear that we are ever separated from you, from one another, from your creation. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and the life to come.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Please pray in your own preferred language.*

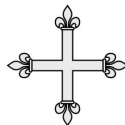
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos  
Santificado sea tu Nombre  
Venga a nosotros tu Reino  
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia  
Perdona nuestras ofensas  
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden  
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal  
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria  
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**



## Sending

### Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever.

**Amen.**



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925  
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

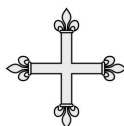
**Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

Postlude on “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

*Helmsley*, arr. James Vivian (b. 1974)



## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

### **PRESIDING MINISTER**

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

### **ASSISTING MINISTERS**

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

### **MUSICIANS**

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Members of the Schola Cantorum

Sarah Pfanz, *soprano*

Ralph Watkins, *tenor*

Members of the Augsburg Bell Choir

Sarah Butchko, Brock Butchko, Emma Holmquist, Emi Carlsperger, Karli Fisher

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