



The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 11:15 AM

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Sleepers, Wake

Wachet Auf, ruft uns die stimme, BWV 645

Margaret Sandresky (b. 1922)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN • ELW 436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



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

Let us pray.

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace..
Amen.

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

Please sing verse 1 as we light the first candle.

(Advent 1) Light the can-dle of love to-day, the giv-er of love is
(Advent 2) Light the can-dle of peace to-day, the giv-er of peace is
(Advent 3) Light the can-dle of joy to-day, the giv-er of joy is
(Advent 4) Light the can-dle of hope to-day, the giv-er of hope is

here! _____ Wel-come the love we live and die for, but
here! _____ Wel-come the peace we fight and cry for, but
here! _____ Wel-come the joy we crave and pray for, but
here! _____ Wel-come the hope we long and wait for, but

on - ly Christ can give. _____ Flick-er and flame and
on - ly Christ can give. _____ Flick-er and flame and
on - ly Christ can give. _____ Flick-er and flame and
on - ly Christ can give. _____ Flick-er and flame and

glow with love, light up the world a - round you.
glow with peace, light up the world a - round you.
glow with joy, light up the world a - round you.
glow with hope, light up the world a - round you.

Flick-er and flame and glow with love, light up the world a -
Flick-er and flame and glow with peace, light up the world a -
Flick-er and flame and glow with joy, light up the world a -
Flick-er and flame and glow with hope, light up the world a -

round _____ you.
round _____ you.
round _____ you.
round _____ you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

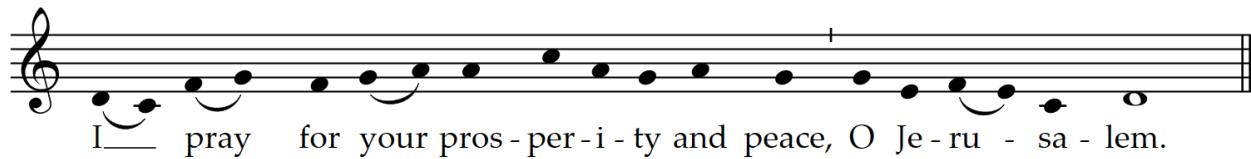
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 122

The cantor introduces the antiphon. Please sing the 2nd time and after the verses.



I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
For my brethren and companions’ sake,
I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.” *[Antiphon]*

SECOND READING

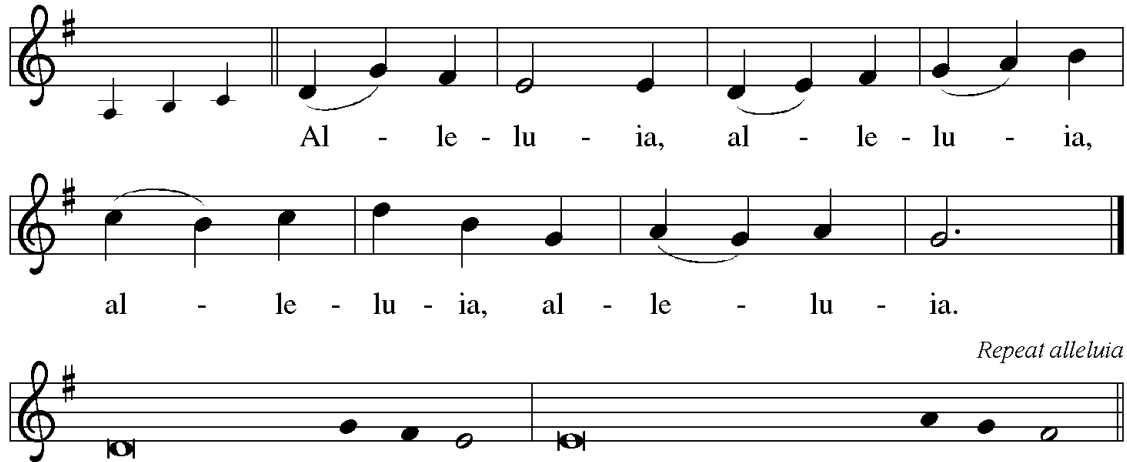
Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Miller

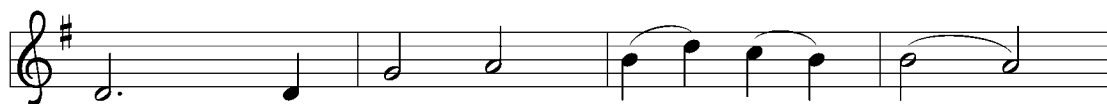
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY • ELW 435

Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending



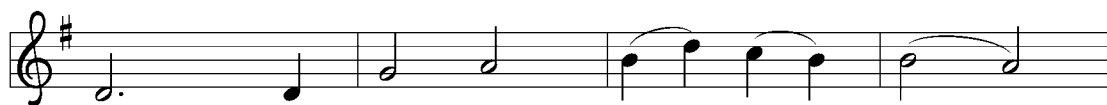
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

After each portion of the prayers:

We come to you,



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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The prayers conclude:

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us

You may also mail your checks to:

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Pastorale on “Wachet auf”

Wayne Wold (b. 1954)

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

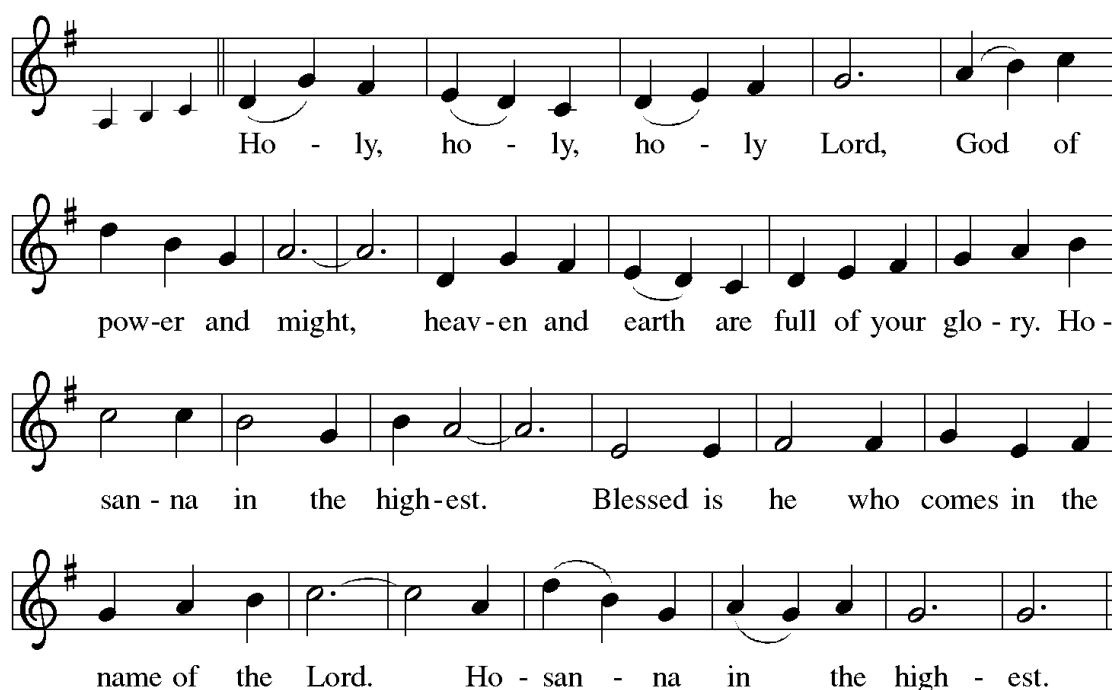
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

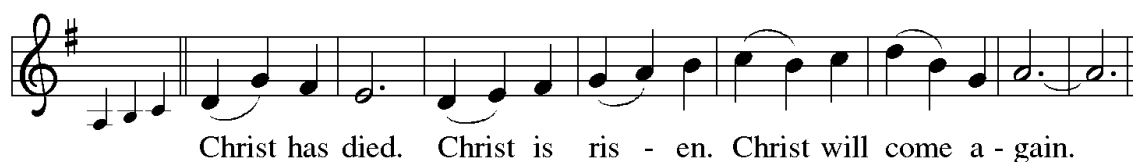


Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.



By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.



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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong. Do not fear.
Here is our God, who has come to save us.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are two stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server) Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN • ELW 715

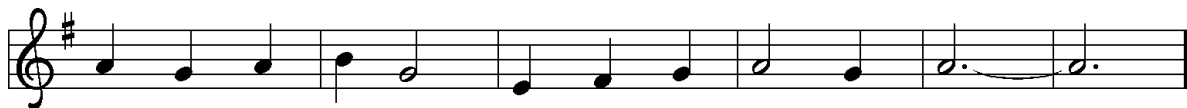
Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE—ACS 905

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • ELW 244

Rejoice, Rejoice



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

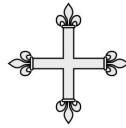
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Helmsley”

James Vivian (b. 1974)



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

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

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

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

COMMUNION SERVER

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski, *Confirmation Pastor*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Carol and Tom Darnell

READER

Richard Ahlberg, Jr.

MUSICIAN

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

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This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, Nov. 27—First Sunday of Advent

8:45 AM Holy Communion
10:00 AM Reception
10:15 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15 AM Holy Communion
5:00 PM San Lucas Misa Español

MONDAY, November 28

8:00 AM CDS Classes
6:00 PM Yoga
7:00 PM ESL

TUESDAY, November 29

8:00 AM CDS Classes
1:30 PM Program Staff Meeting
4:30 PM Piano Lessons
7:00 PM ESL
7:00 PM Girl Scouts
7:00 PM Reformation Bells

WEDNESDAY, November 30

7:00 AM Advent Midweek Devotion (Online)
7:00 AM Zoom Faith Connections
8:00 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Women in Community
10:00 AM CDS Chapel
3:00 PM En Camino
5:00 PM Choristers RSCM program
7:00 PM Finance Committee (zoom)
7:00 PM ESL
7:30 PM Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
7:30 PM AA

THURSDAY, December 1

8:00 AM CDS Classes
4:00 PM CARing Project
7:30 PM Zoom Centering Prayer

FRIDAY, December 2

8:00 AM CDS Classes
7:00 PM Book and Video Discussion Group

SATURDAY, December 3

9:30 AM AA
11:00 AM Al-Anon

SUNDAY, Dec. 4—Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 AM Holy Communion
10:00 AM The Forum
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00 AM SLSHY
10:00 AM Reception
10:15 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15 AM Holy Communion
3:00 PM Zoom San Lucas Gospel Meditation

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed

Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Saturday, December 3, 2022

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Saint Luke Update 11/27/2022 Edition

MASKS ARE ENCOURAGED INDOORS AT SAINT LUKE. THANK YOU FOR STAYING SAFE AND WELL.

ADVENT

The royal blue of hope surrounding us this morning, tells us that we have begun a sacred time of preparation for the birthday of our Savior, as well as the time he returns in all his glory. **It is Advent**, the first week of this four-week journey. We light a candle on the wreath, but soon it will be filled with beaming flame - Christ comes. During this season we hope for the birth of the baby Jesus in our hearts and we look to the coming of Jesus when he comes to usher in the kingdom. Christ came, Christ comes, Christ is coming.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. **Christ will come again!**

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath has a long history. Have you ever thought about the image of light in the middle of winter darkness? Let us think also of the unbroken circle of greens, clearly a symbol of eternal life and the everlasting love we have in Jesus.

SINGING FOR CRECHE SERVICE

Children K-2nd grade are invited to sing a carol at one of the Christmas Eve Creche Services (4:00 & 5:30 p.m.). In order to get the song ready, we will meet on Wednesday **December 14 and 21** from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. Can your child participate? Please contact Dr. Truche at atruche@saintluke.us. Please indicate which service(s) you are planning to attend. How wonderful to have our children back singing praises!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING

Make sure to pick up a brochure, *Opportunities for Sharing*. They are located on the credenzas in the narthex. Also, you may go to the electronic link. Simply go to www.saintluke.us and see the left hand column. Consider honoring or remembering someone with the gift of a Poinsettia Food Card. How about giving to the Christmas Gift Fund for the children of La Sagrada? Maybe you can contribute to the Hat and Mitten Tree, or how about checking out the ELCA Good Gifts, or might you like to help the CDS Scholarship Fund and purchase a wreath? Thank you for giving and helping so many.

FORUM NEXT SUNDAY: *UKRAINE AND THE CHURCH*

The war in Ukraine continues, but what is the response from the global church? How have Lutherans been aiding refugees? What is our call? Special Guest Dr. Paul Wee, formerly with the Lutheran World Federation, will share a special multi media presentation in the sanctuary, **December 4, 10:00 a.m.**

16,000 LIGHTS!

Imagine more than 16,000 lights in our Saint Luke courtyard, a beautiful Christmas tree, lights around the church, illuminating the entire block between Highland and Dale—even the trees in the south lot? Wow. Come **Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 p.m.** meeting out front in the courtyard. We will flip the switch, enjoy a carol or two and some warm beverages. Let us behold the beauty. Pass the word—see you then.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Mark your calendar, **December 18, 5:00 p.m.** for this very special evening. The Word of hope, beautiful music by the Schola Cantorum and Choristers, followed by a reception. Please pass the word.

Today's Music

HYMN NOTES

Wake, awake, for night is flying

Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

Sometimes called the “King of Chorales,” the hymn is titled “Of the Voice at Midnight, and the wise Virgins who meet their Heavenly Bridegroom” based on Matthew 25:1-13 with other references to Revelation 19:6, Revelation 21:21, I Corinthians 2:9, Ezekiel 3:17, and Isaiah 52:8. Nicolai, who also composed the famous melody, wrote his hymns as meditations on death and eternal life in the midst of the pestilence in Westphalia in which over 1,300 people died in six months.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

Lo, He comes with clouds descending

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Wesley used the first line but completely recast the rest of a crude hymn by John Cennick (author of the famous “Wesley” table grace, “Be present at our table, Lord”), six years after Cennick’s death. The ideas and language are borrowed from the book of Revelation, and the whole is based on Revelation 1:7, “Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” the language is apocalyptic and should be interpreted symbolically, not literally. - Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell, b. 1987

This hymn is structured so that the stanzas press from longing for the signs of the kingdom of God to us as its servants and signs. The refrain that follows is a petition that Christ would be our light and shine in our hearts as the church is gathered by that light.—ELW Hymnal Companion

Rejoice, rejoice, believers

Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722

Laurenti, considered one of the finest of pietistic hymn writers, wrote a set of texts and tunes for the entire church year. This hymn, based on Matthew 25:1-13 (the story of the wise and foolish virgins) originally was intended for a Sunday in Trinity, but is usually included in the Advent section. It is a call for us to be prepared to greet the Bridegroom (Jesus) whose coming is imminent.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

MUSIC NOTES

Prelude: Sleepers, Wake—Margaret Sandresky (b. 1922) and Wachet Auf, ruft uns die stimme, BWV 645—J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

This morning we have two settings of the famous “Wachet Auf” chorale. The first one by American composer Margaret Sandresky is a simple and quiet arrangement in the manner of a pastorale where the accompaniment is in a lilting compound meter (3 notes to a beat). The second setting of the chorale is the first number in The Six Schübler Chorales. The history of this work is relatively straightforward. Around 1746, Bach decided to select six chorales from his cantatas and arrange them for organ. This one is taken from his cantata BWV 140.

During the Offering: Pastorale on “Wachet auf” - Wayne Wold (b. 1954)

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954 in Fosston, Minnesota) is Director of Music Ministry at First Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, Maryland, and Adjunct Associate Professor of Music (organ) at Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. He retired in August 2020 after thirty years at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, where he was Professor, College Organist, and Chair of the Music Department.—Waynewold.com

This pastorale comes from a short partita written by Wold on the chorale “Wachet Auf.” This is a typical quiet pastorale (think shepherds and fields) with the tune played on slightly louder organ stops.

Postlude: Postlude on “Helmsley” - James Vivian (b. 1974)

James Vivian FRCO is Organist & Director of Music at St George's Chapel, Windsor. In this role, he has been responsible for providing music at Royal occasions including the marriage of The Duke and Duchess of Sussex and the funerals of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and Queen Elizabeth II. This arrangement of the tune “Helmsley” is a French toccata style with the tune played in the pedals.

