



The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 8:45 & 11:15 AM

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

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

Sleepers, Wake
Wachet Auf, ruft uns die stimme, BWV 645

Margaret Sandresky (b. 1922)
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

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.

Continued on the next page.

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.

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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 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.

Please be seated.

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 80:1-7, 17-19 (11:45)

Please sing the refrain after the organ introduction. Recite the verses in alternation. Pulpit side reads regular typeface. Lectern side reads the bold typeface. Please sing the refrain where indicated.

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

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

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

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD! God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray? R**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

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

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

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**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 (8:45)

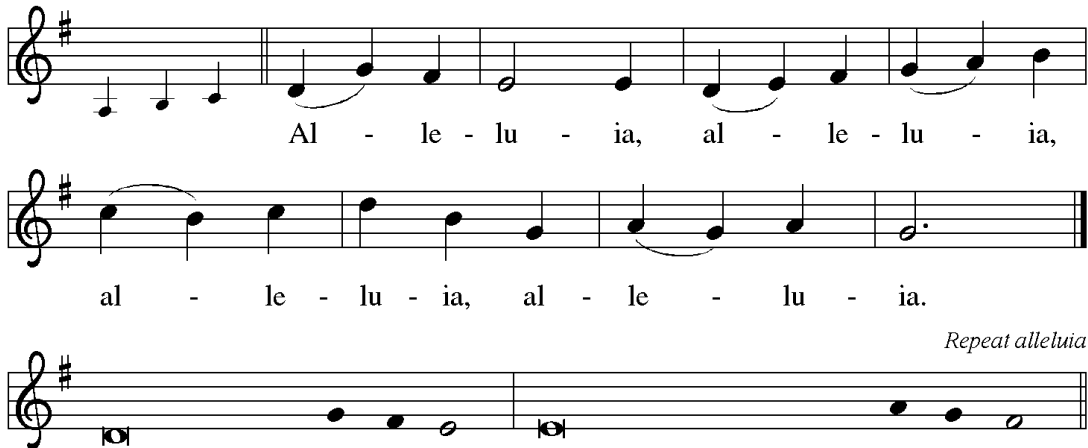


All Alleluia.

Choir Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. (Psalm 85:7)

All Alleluia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (11:15)



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

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.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY—ELW 432

Lo! He Come 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.

Continued on the next page.

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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

After each portion of the prayers:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
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

CHORAL ANTHEM (8:45)

And the Glory of the Lord

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Text: *Isaiah 40:5*

Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING—Alto Solo (11:15)

But who may abide the day of his coming?

But who may abide the day of His coming,
and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.

Text: *Malachi 3:2*

Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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:

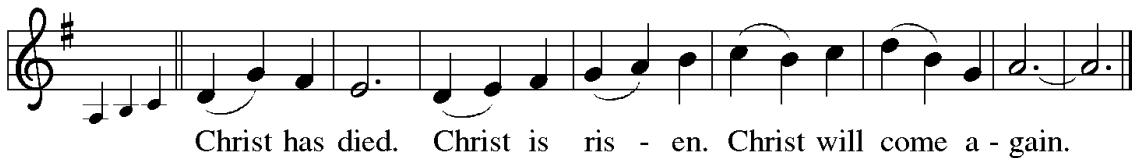
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

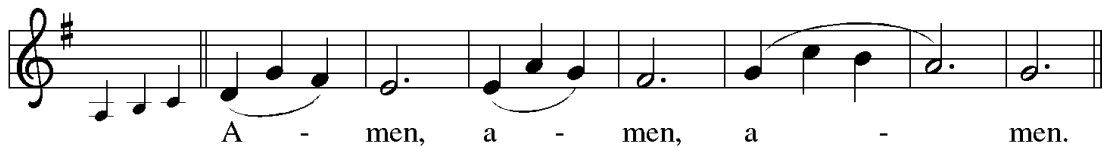
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 día;
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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.
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:

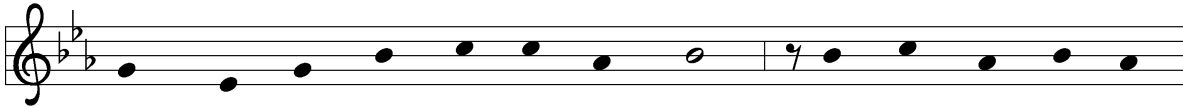
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

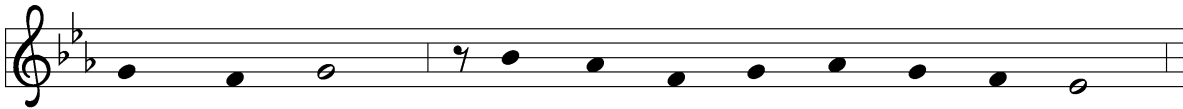
Amen.

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.



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
 Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

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.



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.

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

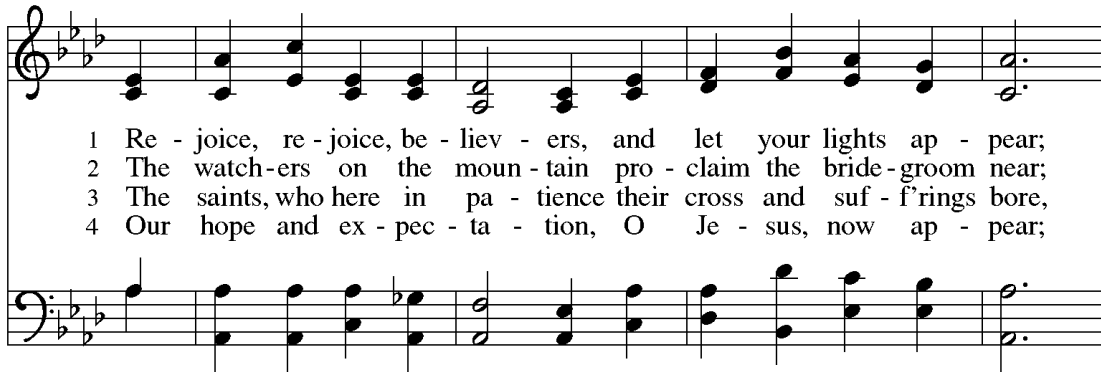
Amen.

SENDING

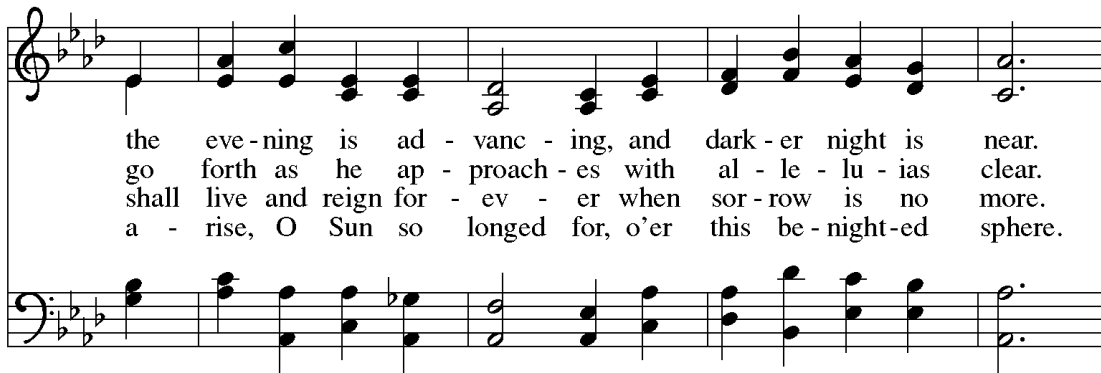
BLESSING

The God of peace bless you,
 the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
 and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you
 now and forever.

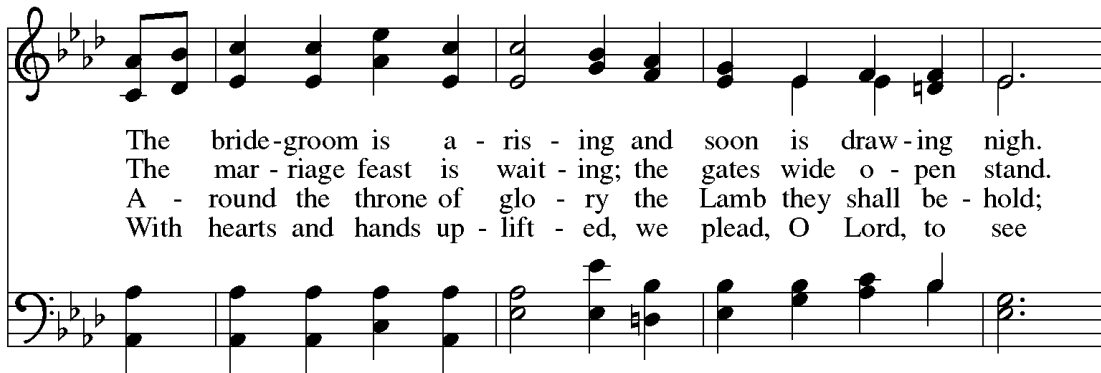
Amen.



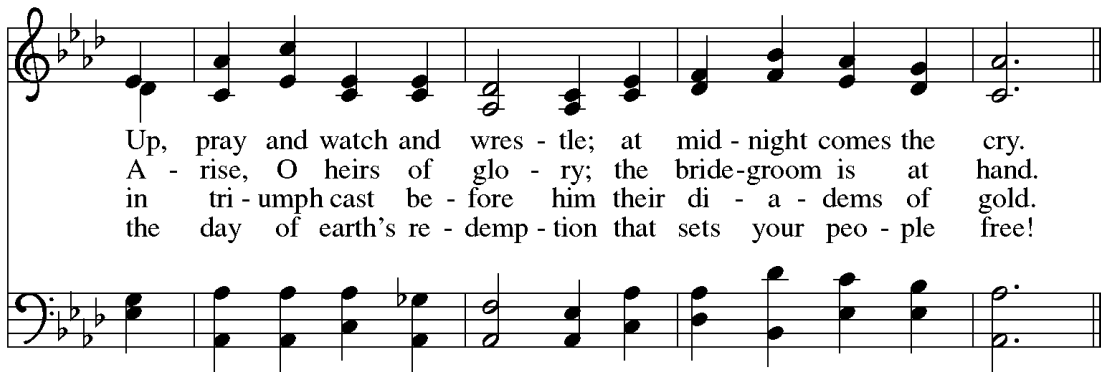
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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

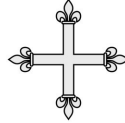
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Helmsley”

James Vivian (b. 1974)



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

Bishop Richard Graham, *Pastor In Residence*
The Rev. Gary Nuss, *Support Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

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

READERS

8:45 Jeff Groen

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS

8:45 Carol Jacobson and Ed Fenstermacher
11:15 Manju, Jacob, Wenit, and Rena Bolleddu

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*
Schola Cantorum (8:45)
Alix Evans, *Alto* (11:15)

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A FEW REMINDERS

THIS WEEK, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6, 6:30 p.m.

Tree Lighting: 30 Foot Tree and a Campus of 30,000 Lights

**Refreshments, Carols, Fun
Saint Luke Front Yard**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 8:45, 11:15 a.m.

**Welcome our missionary serving Central America
Pastor Stephen Deal
Commitment Sunday**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 5:00 p.m.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

**10:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent
One morning service**

4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Children's Creche (Christmas Story) Service
7:00 p.m. Misa Navidad (Worship is in Spanish)
**9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of
Lessons, Carols, and Holy Communion**

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Festival Worship

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 31

10:00 a.m. One morning service

CELEBRATING EPIPHANY, JANUARY 7

8:45 and 11:15 a.m.

This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, Dec. 3—1st Sunday of Advent

8:45 AM **Worship**
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM SLSHY
10:00 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
10:15 AM Signs of Hope? Let's talk
11:15 AM Worship
12:30 PM Genesis Bells Rehearsal

MONDAY, December 4

8:00 AM CDS Classes
4:00 PM After School Art Program - Langley Park
6:00 PM Yoga
7:00 PM Finance Committee (zoom)
7:00 PM ESL Class

TUESDAY, December 5

8:00 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Fire Drill
1:30 PM Program Staff Meeting
4:30 PM Piano Lessons
7:00 PM Reformation Bells
7:00 PM Girl Scouts
7:00 PM ESL Class

WEDNESDAY, December 6

7:00 AM Faith Connections (Zoom)
8:00 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Women in Community
10:00 AM CDS Chapel
3:00 PM En Camino: Children's Tutor Program
5:00 PM AA
5:30 PM Choristers RSCM program

6:30 PM Tree Lighting
7:00 PM ESL Class
7:30 PM Schola Cantorum Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 7

6:30 AM Parking Lot Ministry - Langley Park
8:00 AM CDS Classes
2:45 PM Caring Project: Children's Tutor Program
7:30 PM Centering Prayer (Zoom)

FRIDAY, December 8

8:00 AM CDS Classes

SATURDAY, December 9

8:00 AM Food Distribution: Langley Park
8:30 AM Men's Group
9:30 AM AA
11:00 AM Al-Anon

SUNDAY, Dec. 10—2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Fair Trade
8:45 AM **Worship**
10:00 AM SLSHY: College Care Packages
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM SLSHY
10:00 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15 AM Worship
12:15 PM Creche Rehearsal
12:30 PM Genesis Bells Rehearsal
5:00 PM San Lucas Misa Español (hybrid)
6:00 PM Reception

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed

Upcoming Commemorations

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Sunday, December 3, 2023

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).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Monday, December 4, 2023

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397

Thursday, December 7, 2023

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

Today's Music

Organ Music

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 by **J.S. Bach**. 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.

James Vivian 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.

Choral Anthem

George Frideric Handel's Messiah has remained one of the composer's most beloved works. Incredibly, Handel completed this 260-page oratorio in just 24 days during the summer of 1741. The scriptural text was compiled by Charles Jennens, with the source being the King James Bible. The first performance of Messiah was on 13th April 1742, to celebrate Easter.

Initially the oratorio garnered a lukewarm reception from audiences, however the work began to gain popularity over some years, with it now being the go-to work to perform during the Easter period. During this new Messiah exploration on Classicalexburns, blogs will be posted regularly to cover all of the pieces involved in making up this much-loved oratorio.

The first piece to feature the chorus in the Messiah, And the Glory, the Glory of the Lord announces the revelation of God's glory. The words for this chorus work are taken from Isaiah 40:5. After a short orchestral introduction, the altos begin to unravel the melody. The other voices begin to answer the altos and then each other. This effect creates a rich texture between the voices, and Handel slowly builds this so that the texture grows much denser.

The sopranos hark ‘for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it’ and that is set as the cantus firmus. These long

notes set the other voices off and this is how Handel brings the voice together for the end of the chorus. The ending is grand and sees the voices working homophonically once more. The last line is sung with affirmation to create a well-rounded finale chord.—Alex Burns

Hymns

Sometimes called the “King of Chorales,” **“Wake, awake, for night is flying”** is titled “Of the Voice at Midnight, and the wise Virgins who meet their Heavenly Bridegroom.” It is 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. **Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)**, 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

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) used the first line for the hymn **“Lo, He comes with clouds descending”** 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

The Latin original, found in a ninth century manuscript in Bern, Switzerland, was appointed to be sung on certain days during Advent. In stanza two there is more than a hint of the hymn “At the name of Jesus.” In **“Creator of the stars of night”** the inclusion of a final doxology (a Trinitarian formula of praise) appears for the first time in a Latin hymn.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722), considered one of the finest of pietistic hymn writers, wrote a set of texts and tunes for the entire church year. **“Rejoice, rejoice, believers,”** 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