

# First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

9:00 am

Communion



*277 Years Of  
"Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love"*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Founded in 1743



**Sunday, November 29th – 9:00 a.m.**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**INTRODUCTION**

*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.*

**PRELUDES**

*"From Bethlehem Hills"-  
Pedal Fantasy on "China"  
"O Come, Little Children"*

*by T. Birchwood  
by C. Neal  
by J.D. Payne*

**WELCOME**

In the beginning, there was chaos. There were troubled dreams, uncertain sounds, and fear in the darkness. Then, when the chaos was most threatening, when uncertainty seemed the only certain thing, the cup seemed perpetually half empty, and the light at the end of the tunnel turned out to be just our imagination, God said, "Let there be light."  
And there was Hope. [*light first Advent candle*]

The light of Hope lifts our eyes and calls us forward in Advent. To our uncertain and timid world, it proclaims brazenly that there is a tomorrow. It asserts that hope for the future is not to be found in improved financial portfolios or better self-affirmation. The candle of hope reminds us that there is something to cling to:  
God is and God will.

**Candle lighting**

**O come, O come Emmanuel**

**ELW 257**

**GREETING**

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

**A: And also with you.**

**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.

**A: Amen.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**A: 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,  $\mp$  comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen.**

**Hymn of praise**      *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn- sung by Lou and Carol Mandik*  
#242 ELW

*Please be seated*

**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.*

R: A reading from the 64th chapter of Isaiah

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**P & A: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19**

*Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*

R: <sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

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

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

**A: <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.

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

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

**A: <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 away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

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

## THE ACCLAMATION

1 Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blessed mother mild.

*Those able, please stand*

## GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

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

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark*

**A: *Glory to you, O Lord.***

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>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.

<sup>28</sup>"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. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: **Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be seated*

## THE CHILDREN'S TIME

**SERMON** by Pastor Tina Mackie

*Those able, please stand*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

***You can add names to the prayer list by contacting the church office. After three weeks names will be removed from the prayer of intercession unless resubmitted. These removed people will still be in our private prayers***

A: On this first Sunday of the church year, let us pray that God comes quickly to this weary world; we respond to each petition with words from today's psalm, "Come to help us."

A: Immortal, invisible God only wise, we pray for the church, both our congregation and assemblies around the globe. Give us your life. Show us your presence. Grant us your wisdom. Shepherd for another year of grace our pastor(s), deacons, musicians, and all who minister in the church.

Stir up your strength, O God.

**P: Come to help us.**

A: God of the sparrow, God of the whale, protect the animals, whether wild or farmed or tame. Restore devastated habitats and polluted waters. Calm the storms that devastate the coasts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it.

Stir up your strength, O God.

**P: Come to help us.**

A: Mighty Fortress, protect all people who are poor or oppressed. Grant that the leaders of nations respond with justice and relief to those who suffer. We pray especially for the people of Honduras. Bless all elected officials as they assume new leadership roles.

Stir up your strength, O God.

**P: Come to help us.**

A: Beautiful Savior, abide with us during December. Give your beauty to our holiday preparations in this challenging season and your grace to the many who have little to celebrate this year.

Stir up your strength, O God.

**P: Come to help us.**

A: Mothering God, visit with your power any who are homeless or unemployed, and all who are hungry. Protect children from all manner of abuse. Comfort those who live with chronic pain, anxieties, and addictions. We pray especially for **Virgil Emswiler, Roxanne Robinson and Christine Roleski**. Shape us to become your arms of mercy.

Stir up your strength, O God.

**P: Come to help us.**

A: Healer of our every ill, save all peoples from the coronavirus. Sustain medical workers, and provide for hospitals and clinics. Heal the sick, accompany the dying, and comfort the mourners.

Stir up your strength, O God.

**P: Come to help us.**

Rock of ages, we wait for you, we stand on you. Receive now our private prayers.

*Others for whom you may wish to pray: (names submitted by our members):*

*Kenneth Bauer, Deb Althoff, Mike Anthony, Joanne Frederick, John Frederick, Judi Geri, Robert Hindle, Deb Hoff, Glenn Hoff, Amy Hollar, Tom Hughes, Dottie Jacques, Rich Kleylein, Ryan Law, Mary Lesh, Cindy Levengood, Ellen Levy-Gray, Jay Markwart, James Newson, Diane Pannella, Jennifer Paris, Judi Rittenhouse, Brookelyn Rogers, Lynn Schmitt, Brian Spitko, Doris Sypher, Ron Taylor, Chuck Vammen, Vicki Walker, Luke Walton, and Greg Wick*

Stir up your strength, O God.

**P: Come to help us.**

Lord of all hopefulness, we give thanks for all the faithful: for Andrew, the first disciple to follow Jesus; for those who died while waiting for justice and peace; for all who have died of COVID-19;

At the end, bring us with them into your shining presence.

Stir up your strength, O God.

**P: Come to save us.**

Eternal Father, strong to save, receive our prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus, who came, who comes, and who will come, to bring us life.

**A: Amen.**

### **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

***Let us share the peace with one another***

*(Please keep in mind Social Distancing)*

*Please be seated*

### **OFFERING**

*If you wish to make an electronic offering at this time, please go to our website;*

***zionofspringcity.org*** and make your contribution there. Download the GIVE+ App, or text 610-595-9674 to set up a one-time or recurring donation amount. You may also use PayPal if you would like ,please go to this website <https://www.zionofspringcity.org/electronic-giving/>.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

***"Behold, Behold, I stand at the door and knock"***

***Sung by Jeffrey, Joleen, and Jonella Shalome on Vocals, Jeffrey Shalome on Piano***

*Those able, please stand*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

Amen.



## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



*Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices communion hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parent(s)/Grandparent(s) will place their hands on untutored young people for a blessing given by the Pastor. The response when receiving the bread and wine could be: "Amen" or "I believe." (Grape juice and Gluten Free wafers are available)*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

P: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray,

**A: 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

**A: Amen.**

### SHARING IN COMMUNION -

P: This is the Body of Christ given for you

**A: I believe or Amen** (Congregation will eat the wafer)

P: This is the Blood of Christ given for you

**A: I believe or Amen** (Congregation will drink the wine)

### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and his precious blood, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

**A: Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**A Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P: 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.

**A: Amen THE SENDING HYMN Jesus Shall Reign- sung by Lou and Carol Mandik**

ELW- #434



### **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**P & A: Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*"Postlude on Gloria"- by J.D. Payne*

---

LReprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Licensing for Preludes and Postlude.**

© 1996 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of Lorenz Publishing Company, All Rights Reserved. ONE LICENSE #400720-M

© 1996 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of Lorenz Publishing Company, All Rights Reserved. ONE LICENSE #400720-M

© 2017 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of Lorenz Publishing Company, All Rights Reserved. ONE LICENSE #400720-M

© 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. ONE LICENSE #400720-M

Written by: MICHAEL WEATHERBE, TROY DAVIS Lyrics © ROCK THIS WAY MUSIC CCLI License #- 20777864

© 2017 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of Lorenz Publishing Company, All Rights Reserved. ONE LICENSE #400720-M

Text: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710

Music: French processional, 15th cent. Tune: Public Domain, Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress ONE LICENSE #400720-M



---

### **BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday	Zechariah 13:1-9	On that day God will save us
Tuesday	Zechariah 14:1-9	Promises concerning that day
Wednesday	Matthew 24:15-31	Be ready for that day
Thursday	Micah 2:1-13	God will gather you all
Friday	1 Thessalonians 4: 1-18	A life pleasing to God till the end
Saturday	Psalms 79	Prayer for deliverance