

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**

*Congregational Responses in Bold Print*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**     *Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel*     TRAPP

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, ♫ one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free. Amen.*

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE - *Hope for Those Who Wait***

*Choir/ensemble sings Christ Be Our Light (ELW 715)*

*Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God's eternal time.*

**How long, O Lord, how long?**

*For those waiting for answered prayer:*

**Grant your steadfast patience.**

*For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:*

**Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.**

*For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:*

**Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.**

*For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:*

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

*Candle lighting.*

*This morning we light the **first candle** which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God's presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning we echo the words of the psalmist, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" [Psalm 27:14]*

*Congregation and choir/ensemble sing refrain:*

*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.

**Closing Prayer:** *God of all creation, we declare that you are the Eternal One. We confess to you, O Lord, that we easily grow impatient, when your word to us is to wait. Ignite within us a new and everlasting hope. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

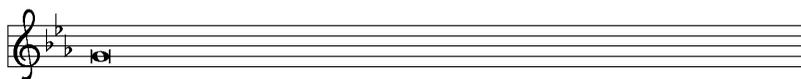
**HYMN** #242 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* REJOICE, REJOICE

**GREETING**

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all. And also with you.*

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.  
 For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
 Lord, have mer - cy.



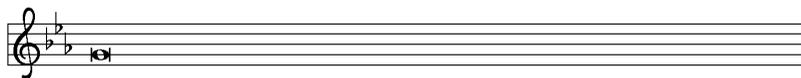
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray together. 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.***

## 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 worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

**SENIOR CHOIR:** *Awaken and Prepare Us*      HAYES

**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.*

<sup>11</sup>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; <sup>12</sup>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; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>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**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go?      You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.*      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL     Matthew 24: 36-44**

*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,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>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, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>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. <sup>44</sup>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**     *Rev. Robert Cochran*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     #254 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*     JEFFERSON

## **NICENE CREED**

*With voices united, let us confess our faith*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

*Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.  
(A brief silence.)*

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

*You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## MEAL

### INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE

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

*Share the Peace with one another!*

**OFFERING** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* BASQUE CAROL

**OFFERTORY** # 692 *We Are an Offering* OFFERING

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.  
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours:  
we are an offering.**

**All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering,  
we are an offering.**

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Let us pray. Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. Amen.*

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

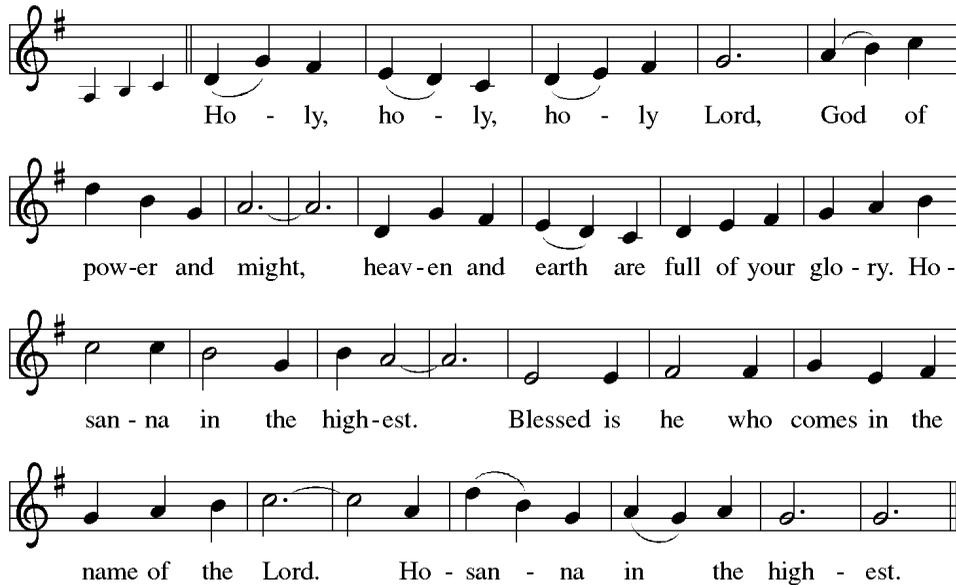
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*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.*

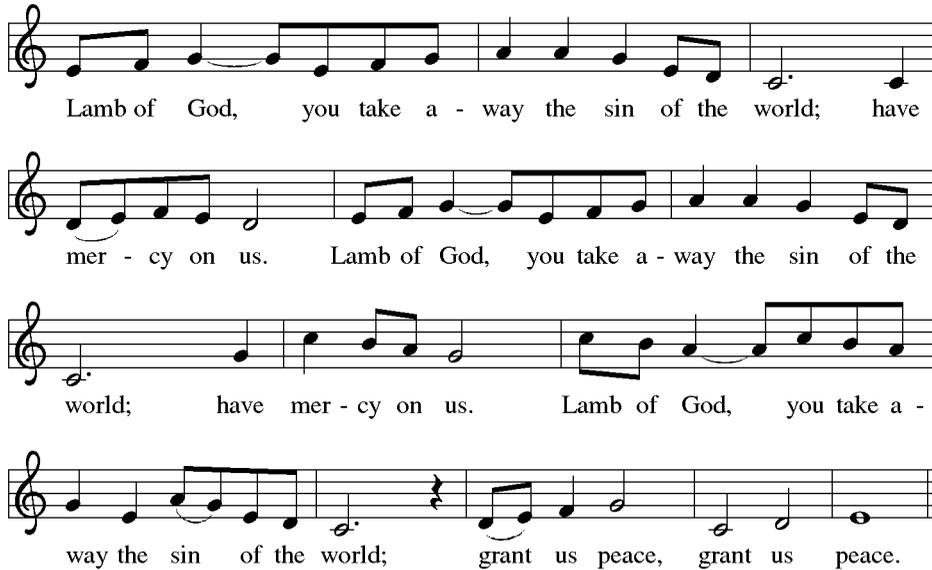
## LORD'S PRAYER

**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

*Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.*

## 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.

### HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

#488 *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* SCHMÜCJE DICH

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

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray. God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

### SENDING

#### BLESSING

*May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.*

*The blessing of the holy Trinity, †one God, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.*

**SENDING HYMN** #244 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* HAP TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG

**DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.*

**POSTLUDE** *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* WEBER

Worship has ended. \* The service begins.

*Moving One Step Closer to God.*

[www.1stLutheranChurch.org](http://www.1stLutheranChurch.org)

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