

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

8:15 – Pastor Tucker

10:45 Greg, Kristen, Alex, Bryn and AJ Johnson

Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

“Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved”

The first candle is lit.

Light one candle; see it glow brightly, so that all may know how one candle shows the way making our darkness bright as God's day.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. All pray: Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

All Pray: **Dear God, we often stumble through life not knowing the path before us and forgetting to remember what has happened before. Illumine our path so we can follow you and support our neighbors when they are in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

PRELUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* WALCHA

CONFESSION

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.

HYMN #241 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* ST. THEODULPH

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 a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



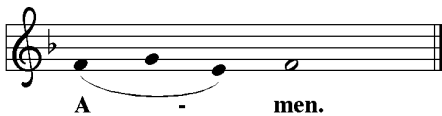
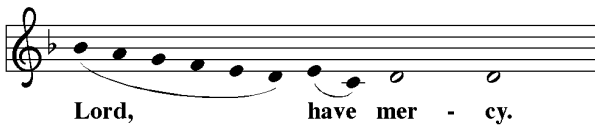
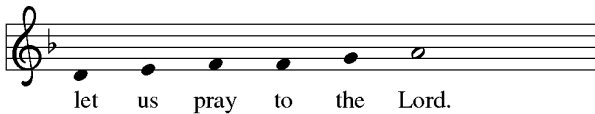
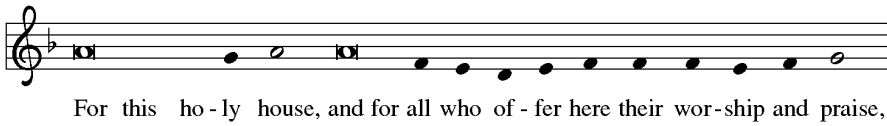
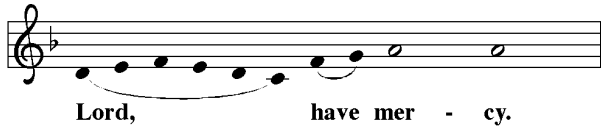
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. 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.

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.

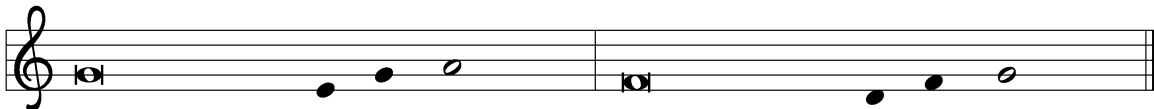
¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From 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. ⁵You 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. ⁶We 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. ⁷There 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. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do 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 (we sing responsively)



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- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹ like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹ on the cherubim.
- ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹ and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and ¹ come to help us.**
- ³Restore ¹ us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.
- ⁴**O LORD ¹ God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your ¹ people pray?**
- ⁵You have fed them with the ¹ bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of ¹ tears to drink.
- ⁶**You have made us the derision ¹ of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh ¹ us to scorn.**
- ⁷Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.
- ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at ¹ your right hand,
the one you have made so strong ¹ for yourself.**
- ¹⁸And so will we never turn a- ¹ way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- ¹ on your name.
- ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.**

BRASS ENSEMBLE: (8:15) *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

SENIOR CHOIR: (10:45) *My Lord, What a Morning* HELVEY

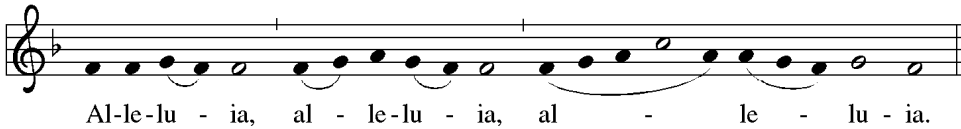
SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

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.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God 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 Mark 13: 24-37



The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **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:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then 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.

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

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

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

SERMON

Friar Tucker O’Leary, Sr. Pastor

HYMN OF THE DAY #438 *My Lord, What a Morning* BURLEIGH

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, 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.

THE PRAYERS

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

We will sing *Dona Nobis Pacem* at the beginning of prayers and at the end.

1 *Canon*



Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff in G major (one sharp). It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics 'Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.' are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

Merciful God...receive our prayer.

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

CHILDRENS' SERMON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING *17th Century Swedish Psalm Tune* LAMMI

OFFERTORY ACS 970 *We Come Now to Your Table, Lord* LIVING BREAD

We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.

We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.

You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:

and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

OFFERTORY 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 al - so with you.**

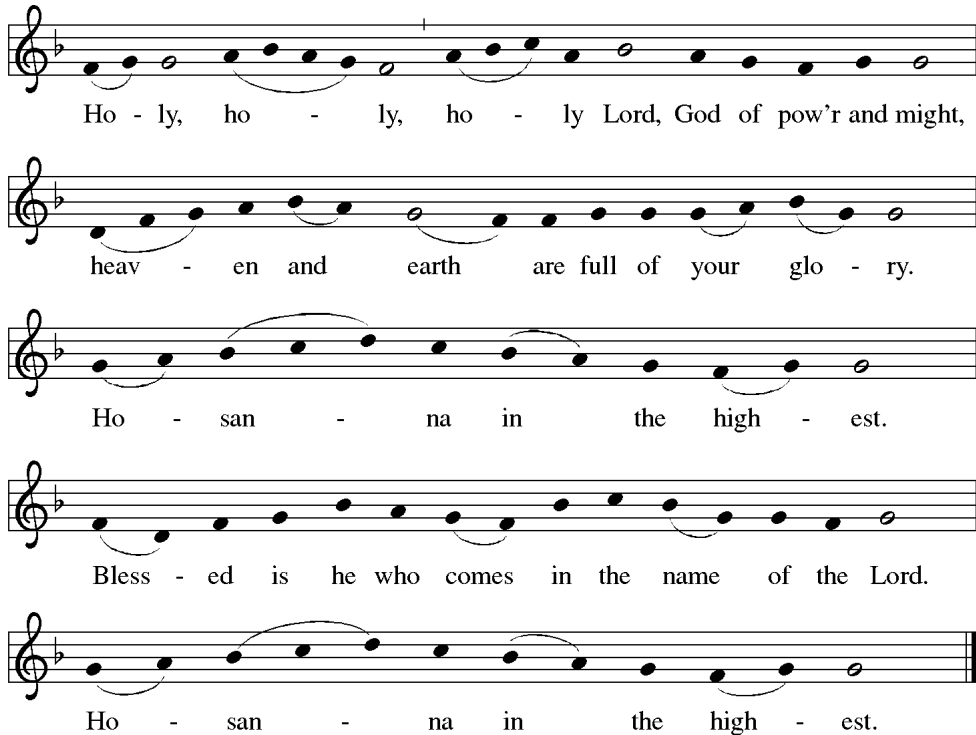
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed 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

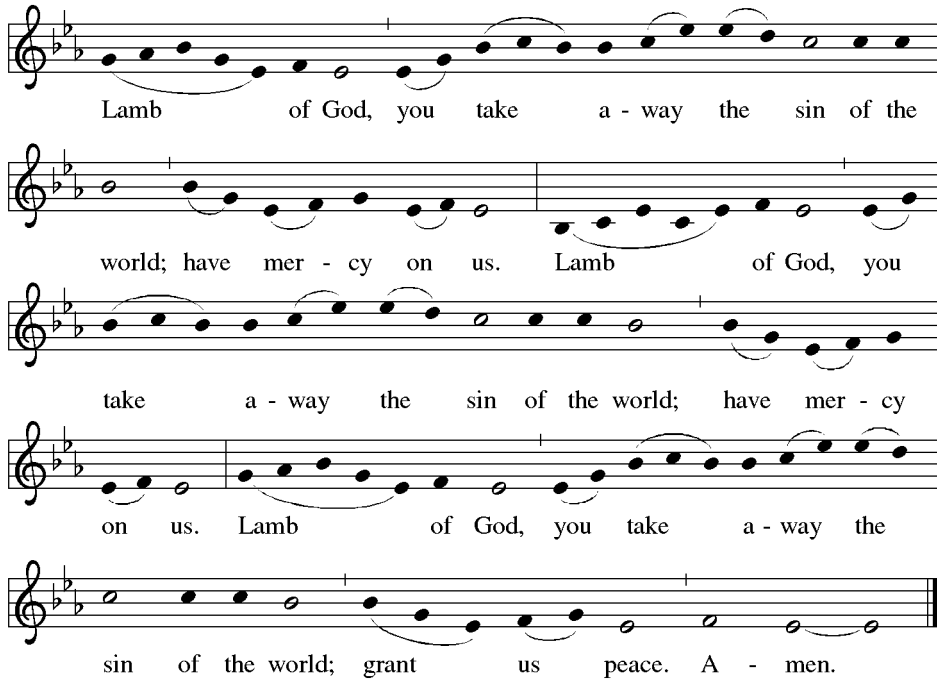
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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. A - men.

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

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.

HYMN #439 *Soon and Very Soon* VERY SOON

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

POSTLUDE *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* MANZ

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