



November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Joint Worship to be the church together

Voices from Augustana & First Lutheran

Worship broadcast via radio and YouTube. YouTube links found on:

www.augustanalutheran.org www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

GATHERING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

HYMN #242 v. 1,2,4



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

Let us come before the living God in confession. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation, **we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, ✙ Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

KYRIE

p. 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 149

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

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.

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 151

**GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to St. 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

Lament

VICAR LYNN MELCHIOR

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

HYMN #527, V.1,2,4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

What Feast of Love

HYMN #487, v.1,3



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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COMMUNION

This is the Lord's Table, all are welcome here. In your home is an ordinary table now set apart and holy, Christ is present there. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper, wherever you may be.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, throughout the generations you have come to be present with us at our tables, turning ordinary meals into holy moments for us to experience your grace in tangible ways. In an upper room of a guest house 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.

The body of Christ given for you. *(all share in eating the bread)*

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.

The blood of Christ shed for you. *(all sharing in drinking of the cup)*

Together as the body of Christ, trusting that the distance that separates us is bridged by the Holy Spirit who makes us one, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

COMMUNION HYMN

My Lord, What a Morning

HYMN #438, v.1

Keftam



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

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.

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

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

HYMN #244, v.1,3,4



- 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's 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 with you. **Thanks be to God.**

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FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Church phone number 739-3348 and email office@flcff.org

The flowers on the altar and the radio broadcast are sponsored by Dolores Simdorn in memory of Lavern.

Zoom Fellowship today November 29th from 11:00 to 11:30 am. The purpose of this is to connect with people and to talk about a fun topic! Today's topic: What was your worst Christmas gift. Zoom link is: www.flcff.org/zoom-fellowship; Meeting ID: 817 4410 2677 Password: 402

Today, November 29 there will be FLY 10-12 on-line Game Event from 1 to 2 pm, and FLY 7-9 Game Event from 2 to 3:00 pm. We will be playing "Among Us" Link will be sent out. Hope you can join us!

Today, Sunday November 29 at 6:30 pm Luther Crest Bible Camp "Campfires & Carols", a special Advent event. Link for the event: https://www.facebook.com/luthercrest/?ref=page_internal

In-person worship is paused through December 18. Worship continues to be with Augustana and will be broadcast on the radio and YouTube.

Coming up this week:

- Monday, November 30 at 6:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom.
- Tuesday, December 1 at 4:00 pm Worship Committee via Zoom.
- Tuesday, December 1 at 5:30 pm Discipleship Committee via Zoom.
- Wednesday, December 2, FLY K-6 watch for info.
- Wednesday, December 2 Advent Reflections available on YouTube.

Advent Reflections, with Pastor Gretchen Enoch, Rev. David Strom, & Vicar Lynn Melchior will be available each Wednesday during Advent on YouTube. To access YouTube go to the First Lutheran website: www.firstlutheranchurchff.org. A link to the website will also be sent out via Constant Contact.

First Lutheran Talent Show will be air on YouTube on Sunday, December 27 at 9:30 am. Photos, videos, written memories, songs, readings, etc. can be submitted to Kristy before December 13 to be included in the video. If you have questions, contact Kristy at kristy@flcff.org or 218 531-9544. Join us as we share the Christmas spirit and the miracle of Jesus' birth with the community as a united church.

Luther Crest 17th Annual Christmas Bake Sale – orders due Dec. 4! Place an order by calling 320-846-2431, by completing an on-line order form at www.luthercrest.org, or use a form on the Info Counter in the Narthex.

Christmas Food Baskets – If you or someone you know could benefit from a Food Basket, contact the church before Dec. 14.

How Can I Help? If you have items to drop off, please call the church office and we will open the door for you. 739-3348.

- **Giving Trees** – financial contributions for the Giving Trees can be sent to the church office, specifying it is for the Giving Tree. The funds will be used to shop for gifts for *A Place to Belong* and *Someplace Safe*.
- **The Riverside Lions collect eyeglasses** for reuse. There is a collection box in the Narthex for your convenience.
- **Mitten Ministry** – we are collecting new mittens, hats & scarves (purchased or homemade) to help those in need of winter wear. Please leave your donation in the basket in the Narthex.
- **Change to Make a Change** – There is a large plastic bottle in the Narthex, and we invite you to put your spare change in the bottle. The money collected will go to help feed the hungry – 75% locally and 25% worldwide.
- **Salvation Army** has several opportunities to help: Bell Ringers needed (call 739-9692 for details); Christmas Toy Shop (Angel Tree) collection boxes will be located at Fleet Farm & Walmart.
- **Green Living is promoted by Lion Clubs International.** There is a recycling program for clean plastic bags & wraps. There is a receptacle in the narthex for you to place your surplus clean bags & wraps. NOT ACCEPTABLE: frozen veggie bags, chip bags, salad bags, waxy/coated bags. Thanks from the Riverside Lions, Fergus Falls.

Our Sanctuary has been decorated for Advent & Christmas. Many thanks to the women who did such a great job!

Productive Alternatives has positions available for Job Coach. If you enjoy working with the public with flexible hours and providing support to individuals with varying abilities, contact Julie or Stacy at 218 998-5630.

Meals by Wheels Board of Directors is looking for additional people to join their board. The board meets four times a year. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members from 1st Lutheran, Joan Anderson or Dolores Simdorn.

Don't Forget! Offerings need to be received by the church office before December 28 to be recorded on your 2020 Giving Statement. Thank you!

Financial Update: As of November 23, 2020, year-to-date revenue: \$415,536, year-to-date budget \$467,438, last year: \$407,520.