

# First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Deerfield Beach, Florida

*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.*

## We Gather

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Zion **where, following Jesus, we invite, equip, and serve our neighbors and one another!**

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. *[Silence for reflection.]* God of all time, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Verses 1, 2, 6, and 8)



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.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

### APOSTOLIC 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.**

## KYRIE

The phrase "Kyrie eleison" is Greek for "Lord, have mercy." The Cantor will sing the verses. This Refrain follows the verses three times before the final Amen.



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**



*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.

## We Hear & Respond to God's Word

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 64:1-9

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 80:1-7; 17-19

- <sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup>**O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**  
<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
 the one you have made so strong for yourself.**  
<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.**

**SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9**

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



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: MARK 13:24-37**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter...  
**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."

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

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Lord, What a Morning"



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*

## CREED

Together with Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 into hell.  
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

After each petition: ...Lord, in your mercy.  
**Hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always!  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*This is the time in our worship to give thanks to God for your blessings. How is God blessing you and calling you to bless others? We invite your support of ongoing and growing ministries at Zion.*

## We Feast on the Body & Blood of Christ

## THE 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.**

Holy and mysterious God,  
in the beginning the darkness waited,  
and you created light.  
Sarah and Abraham waited for a future,  
and you sent descendants greater than the stars.

The Hebrew slaves waited for rescue,  
and you sent Miriam and Moses to enact your liberation.  
Israel waited in exile for renewal,  
and you empowered prophets and poets  
with your life-giving speech.

As the whole world groaned in waiting  
for release and rebirth,  
you sent Jesus, born of strong Mary,  
fathered by humble Joseph,  
incarnate in our humility,  
in solidarity with the suffering and the poor,  
full of wisdom and grace for all.

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.

Send your Spirit into this broken world,  
into our hopeful, imperfect gathering,  
and on this sacred bread and wine  
so we may be healed and whole again  
and be filled with the courage to love.

**Come, Holy Spirit!**

All praise, and thanks to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,  
here and now and into the great beyond.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.  
**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.**

## PRAYER

Let us pray...God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in  
word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us; kindle in  
us the fire of your Spirit, may your light so shine through us  
that all may welcome your Son at his coming. We ask this in  
the name of Jesus, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

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## We Are Sent Forth to Love & Serve

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### "Soon and Very Soon" (Verse 1)



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

## DISMISSAL

The worship has ended; now the service begins.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

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