**Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Sunday, November 29, 2020   
First Sunday of Advent**

**Metropolitan Chicago Synod Service**

**Welcome**

**lighting an advent candle: hope**

We invite you to light a candle in your home.

**Opening** ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

1 O come, o come, Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, o Rod of Jesse’s stem

From ev’ry foe deliver them

That trust your mighty power to save

And give them victory o’er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to you, O Israel.

3O Come, Desire of nations, bind

In one the hearts of humankind.

All bitter, sad divisions cease

And bid for us a king of peace!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to you, O Israel!

**KYRIE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

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!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,

and do not remember iniquity for ever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

Your holy cities have become a wilderness,

Zion has become a wilderness,

Jerusalem a desolation.

Our holy and beautiful house,

where our ancestors praised you,

has been burned by fire,

and all our pleasant places have become ruins.

After all this, will you restrain yourself, O LORD?

Will you keep silent, and punish us so severely?

**PSALM 80** Sung

**SECOND READING 1st Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I

give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has

been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in

him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of

Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in

any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He

will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the

day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into

the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Sung**

**Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you. We have come with open hearts.**  **O let the ancient words impart.**

**GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37**

‘But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power

and glory. 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.

‘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. So also, when you see

these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly

I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have

taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass

away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor

the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when

the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when

he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

The gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** Bishop Yehiel Curry

**Hymn of the Day *Soon and Very Soon* Hymn 439**

Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King, *(3x)*

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

No more cryin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King, *(3x)*

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

No more dyin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King, *(3x)*

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King, *(3x)*

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

**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 the people**   
Hear us O, God, **your mercy is great.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**LITANY OF THANKSGIVING**

All creation sings, **thanks be to God!**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

**Sending Song*Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn* Hymn 242**

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.  
  
2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.

3 In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.  
  
4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.

**Dismissal**Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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