

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: November 29, 2020

### RINGING OF THE BELL

**SILENCE:** Pray for open hearts & minds to Christ and his gifts of grace in Word & Sacrament.

### ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

**Lighting of the Candle** #715 v. 1 "Christ, Be Our Light"

As we light the candles on this wreath, wake up our hearts to your love, that we may be ready to greet Jesus when he comes to renew the earth 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.**

**GATHERING SONG** #242 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

### GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray (pause). Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful presence awaken us to your grace and to our neighbor whom you call us to love, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### WORD

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM from Psalm 122. Our response is "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."**

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **Response.**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself; to which tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord For there are thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. **Response.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers. **Response.**

For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity. Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good.”  
**Response.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** #257 v. 1 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

“Alleluia! Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!”

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** #257 v. 2 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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

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

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HOMILY

### APOSTLE'S CREED p. 105

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**God, you turn your ear to all who call upon your name. In hope we offer our prayers.**

For the church. May we be awake each day to the abundant graces of God. Lord, in your mercy:

For attentiveness. May our minds and hearts be focused in this Advent Season upon the people we love and the God whom we serve. Lord, in your mercy:

For world leaders. May they chose to protect and preserve life. Lord, in your mercy:

For those seeking employment. May new opportunities be opened to them to provide for themselves and their families. Lord, in your mercy:

Give hope to those who will die this day and bless those who keep watch with them. Lord, in your mercy:

**Sick . . .**

**Bishops . . .**

**May God make firm our faith, enrich our hope, and increase our love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **SONG FOR THE GIFTS #239 "Hark, the Glad Sound!"**

Blessed are you, Lord God, of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

#### PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS

Let us pray (pause). Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these

gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **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 God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

On the night before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, he took bread and gave you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.

When supper was ended Jesus took the cup. Again Father he gave you thanks and praise. Gave the cup to his disciples and said, take this all of you and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, it will be shed for you and for all people that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ had died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth into his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming. We remember those of our parish whose anniversary of death we remember this week: Bob Jensen, Darrell Umbaugh, Larry Mercer, Inez Duft, Tanie Smith, Julia Clements, and Ruth Park. Thank you for the eternal life they now share with you and all the saints.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Through him, with him, in him; in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **OUR FATHER & SIGN OF PEACE**

### **LAMB OF GOD**

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Light of the world, you take away the sins of the world. **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Bread of Life, you take away the sins of the world. **Grant us your peace. Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray (pause). Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **PRAYERS AT THE CLOSE OF WORSHIP**

Loving God, bless our families and fill our homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Especially send your blessing upon Larry & Marcia Nuese & their family, Mark & Emily Nymeyer & their family; Jason & Lynn Olberding & their family. Protect them, guide them, and deepen their love for you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Lord. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS**

O Saving Lord Jesus, hear our pleas as we come before you to pray for deliverance and protection from the Coronavirus. We pray for all who are sick and suffering and for families that are grieving. Give us each the determination to do all we can to stop the spread. Especially put a shield of protection around all our precious children. Give insight and skill to those working to develop medicines and the vaccine we need. We commend

ourselves, our community, our country, and our world into your hands. Lord, we love you and adore you. **Amen.**

### **SENDING**

#### **BENEDICTION**

The Creator of the stars bless your advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the ever-present Spirit guide your journey, now and forever, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**