

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
9:00 AM Traditional Worship

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Lector: Colby Smith **Acolyte:** Lauren Koch
Ushers: Jim Lunde, Myron Sime & Gary Gullickson
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Stir up your power and come! 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Mellophone: Bill Skiera

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever.
C: Amen.
P: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Comforting God,

C: we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.

P: "Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord!

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

ADVENT HYMN: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #257 ELW vs 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.

P: In the beginning there was darkness, and God added the light to accompany the darkness.

C: We light the first candle of Advent to celebrate the dark.

P: May this candle remind us that we are invited to seek the mystery and wonder that we have yet to explore.

C: Amen

Stand

HYMN: "The King Shall Come" #260 ELW vss 1; 2 & 5

vs. 1: The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

vs. 2: Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

vs. 5: The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE: page 120 ELW *(front of the hymnal)*

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have Mercy

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation, let us pray to the lord.

C: Lord, have mercy

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort,
and defend us, gracious Lord,

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: page 121 ELW *(front of hymnal)*

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. Refrain…

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. Refrain…

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Refrain…

SALUTATION
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
P: Let us pray.
C: 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.
Sit
ANTHEM: "What Child is This?" Dulcimer: Karen Warwick

READING: **Isaiah 64:1-9**
1-7 Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and descend, make the mountains shudder at your presence—As when a forest catches fire, as when fire makes a pot to boil—To shock your enemies into facing you, make the nations shake in their boots! You did terrible things we never expected, descended and made the mountains shudder at your presence. Since before time began no one has ever imagined, No ear heard, no eye seen, a God like you who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who happily do what is right, who keep a good memory of the way you work. But how angry you've been with us!

We've sinned and kept at it so long! Is there any hope for us? Can we be saved? We're all sin-infected, sin-contaminated. Our best efforts are grease-stained rags. We dry up like autumn leaves— sin-dried, we're blown off by the wind. No one prays to you or makes the effort to reach out to you because you've turned away from us, left us to stew in our sins. 8-12 Still, God, you are our Father. We're the clay and you're our potter: All of us are what you made us. Don't be too angry with us, O God. Don't keep a permanent account of wrongdoing. Keep in mind, please, we *are* your people—all of us.

P: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.
Stand
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia!" page 124 ELW
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia
The Gospel is announced…
P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 13th Chapter
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37
24-25 "Following those hard times, sun will fade out, moon cloud over, stars fall out of the sky, cosmic powers tremble. 26-27 "And then they'll see the Son of Man enter in grand style, his Arrival filling the sky—no one will miss it! He'll dispatch the angels; they will pull in the chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole. 28-31 "Take a lesson from the fig tree. From the moment you notice its buds form, the merest hint of green, you know summer's just around the corner. And so it is with you. When you see all these things, you know he is at the door. Don't take this lightly. I'm not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won't wear out. 32-37 "But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father. So keep a sharp lookout, for you don't know the timetable. It's like a man who takes a trip, leaving home and putting his servants in charge, each assigned a task, and commanding the gatekeeper to stand watch. So, stay at your post, watching. You have no idea when the homeowner is returning, whether evening, midnight, cockcrow, or morning. You don't want him showing up unannounced, with you asleep on the job. I say it to you, and I'm saying it to all: Stay at your post. Keep watch."

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.
Sit
SERMON
Stand
HYMN: "Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn" 242 ELW vss. 1; 2 & 4

vs. 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.

vs. 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.

vs. 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.

HOLY BAPTISM #227 ELW *(front of hymnal)*

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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 SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY: "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" Lee/Organ

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Holy Creator,

C: we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: "Rejoice, Rejoice , Believers" #244 ELW

Vs. 1: Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

Vs. 2: The watchers on the mountain

proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

Vs. 4: Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

POSTLUDE: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!” Monk/Culli