

*²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds'
with great power and glory.*

~Mark 13:26

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Advent – November 30, 2014

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Rev. Marsella Esseck, Guest Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of Advent – November 30, 2014

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.

Andrew, Apostle

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

PRELUDE: *My Lord, What a Mornin' - Robert Hobby*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

ADVENT SONG #240: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (stanza 1)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who shapes the whole creation,
who comes with might and mercy,
who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.
Faithful God,
we confess that we have been unfaithful to you.
Like dry leaves and withered grass,
our lives are blown about by our sins
and the powers of evil around us.
Restore us, O God;
let the light of your face shine on us,
and we shall be saved. Amen.

God is patient, not wanting any to perish,
but all to come to repentance.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
I bring you this good news:
You are free from all that imprisons you;
your sins are forgiven;
God heals your broken hearts.
Live in peace and harmony
as you wait for the day of God.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG #259: *Fling Wide the Door

***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.

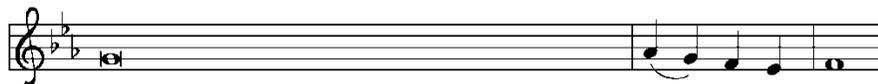
***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy.
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
 A - men, a - men.

***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 (page 694 in Old Testament)

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.

O 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.

PSALM 80



1. O hear our cry, O Lord; Now hear us as we pray.
 2. En - throned a - bove all worlds, You shine with ho - ly light.
 3. O Lord, the God of Hosts, Turn not Your face a - way.
 4. O Lord, our God, re - turn; Bring peace in - to each home.



You guide us as a shep - herd leads, So keep us in your way.
 Lord, pour Your pow'r up - on us all And save us with Your might.
 Our tears have been both food and drink, Foes mock us night and day.
 So let Your face shine on us all, Re - store us as Your own.



O come, Lord, come, Re - store and save us now.

Text: Psalm 80, vers. Fred R. Anderson, © 1986 in *Singing Psalms of Joy and Praise*
 Music: Arthur Henry Messiter, 1883

MARION

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians: 1: 3-9 (page 166 in New Testament)

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

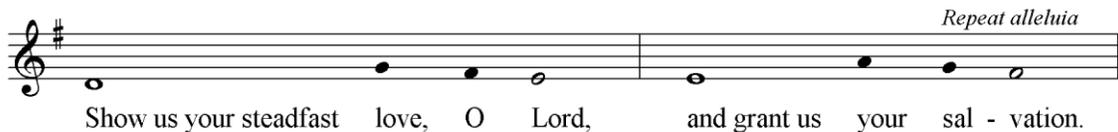
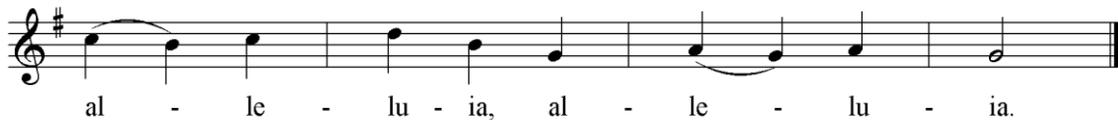
³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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



Repeat alleluia

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 13: 24 – 37** (page 50 in New Testament)

In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The holy gospel, according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴But 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.

²⁸From 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.

³²But 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #438: *My Lord, What a Morning

***REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors, especially those family members and friends who are dear to us: Christ Wills Jr., Christ Wills Sr., Charles Wills, Mary Wills, Harry Wills, Elsie Wills, Julius & Martha Bielo, Frank & Martha Raupp, Leona & Loyal Ferguson, Bert & Jane Ann Bishop, David Bishop, Burton Sr. & Hazel Bishop, Madeline Bishop, Agnes & Francis McKeon, Virginia Brown.

As we remember these your children,
**strengthen us to follow Christ through this world
until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life,
where suffering and death will be no more.**

Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,**

true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Come, long-expected one. Awaken your church to be alert for signs of your coming in unexpected people and places.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come, Savior of the nations. Let your justice and righteousness dwell among all the peoples of the earth. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Come, Creator of all. Amidst the shortness of life, teach us to wonder at the sun, moon, stars, mountains, oceans, and all creatures great and small. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come, Love divine. Enfold with your mercy all who watch and wait for hope in the midst of suffering, hardship, poverty, unemployment, illness, or grief, especially Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Come, giver of grace. Turn this community toward the light of your forgiveness and mercy as we wait for the advent of Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come, Good Shepherd. Lead all those who are discerning vocations, and be with our call committee and bishop as they seek a new pastor for this congregation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come, creative Spirit. Inspire us by the faith of the apostle Andrew and those who have gone before us as we trust in your promise to bring all things to fulfillment in Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #243: *Lost in the Night*

(All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of abundance,

we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,

and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need

until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

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.

***PREFACE**

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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

***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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

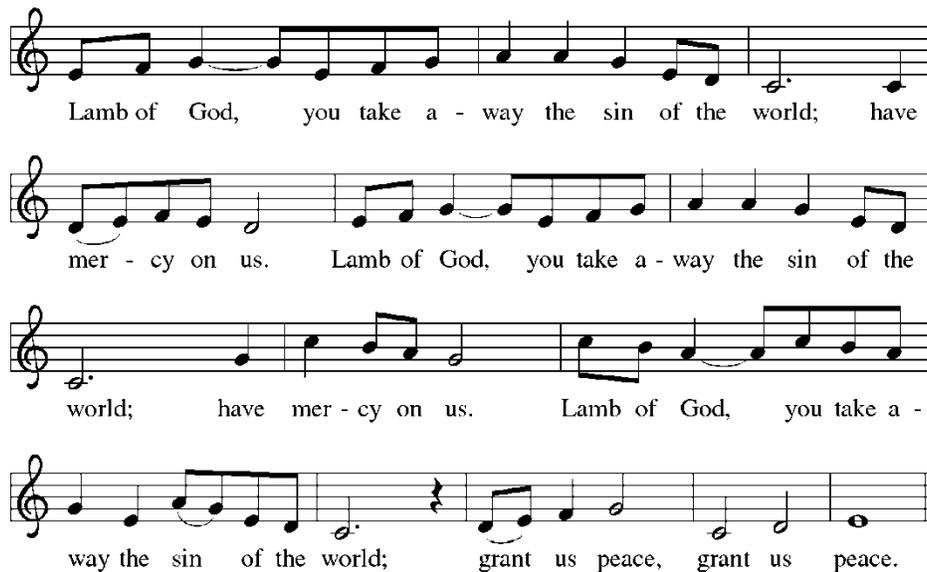
Come to Christ,
who comes to us in this holy supper.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

*COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*COMMUNION HYMN #260: *The King Shall Come*

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace. **Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come.
Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us.

Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need,
and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility,
sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await,
make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer,
at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son +, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG #244: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* – David Johnson

The flowers this week are given by Larry & Amy Werner to the glory of God and in honor of Grant, Katie, Emma and Ava, and in memory of Charles.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Kelly Greb

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector: Kelly Greb

Usher:

Attendance Last Week: 91

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,640.27

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 124,092.66

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 113,449.97

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Carolyn Jarrett

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte: Cardinal

Lector: Cindy Knauff

Usher:

Attendance last year: 64

Last Week's Giving: \$ 1,790.00

Year to Date Receipts: \$127,862.75

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