

Advent 1, November 29, 2020, Order of Worship

**Greeting** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Call to Worship, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

***Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you who sit enthroned between the cherubim*** (the “cherubim” are God’s mighty creatures—not at all like cute little cherubs—who sit on the ends of the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies in the Temple), ***shine forth before*** (the tribes of) ***Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us. Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.*** ***O Lord God Almighty, how long will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. You have made us a source of contention to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us. Restore us, O God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved. . . . Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man*** (human being) ***you have raised up for yourself. Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.***

**Confession and Forgiveness for Advent**

Let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. *Silent reflection.*

***Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.*** (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, Augsburg Fortress, p. 24)

People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** (public domain) LBW 34, ELW257

Note: This is one of the few Advent hymns you probably know; most of them aren’t familiar tunes. Instead of trying to sing many verses, please really ponder the meaning of the ones printed here (and probably the next 3 weeks). Notes will explain meanings.

***O come, O come, Emmanuel*** (emmanu=with us; el=God; this name of Jesus=“God with us”) ***And ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.***  
**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

***O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height***

***In ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe*** (after Moses led God's people out of Egypt, when they were wandering in the wilderness, God called Moses up on Mount Sinai, where they were surrounded by clouds, and gave him the Ten Commandments).

***Refrain***

**The Kyrie** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. 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. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day** 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.**

**A reading from Isaiah, the 64<sup>th</sup> chapter (64:1-9)** Note: 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 (*Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, Augsburg Fortress, p. 30).

***Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You came to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them (God's ways), you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.***

Word of God, word of life.

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**A reading from I Corinthians, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter (1:3-9)** Note: As the Christians in Corinth await the advent (return after the resurrection) 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” ((*Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, Augsburg Fortress, p. 30).

***Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—because our (Paul and his brother in the faith Sosthenes) testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.*** (Note that the various titles of Jesus are used six times in these seven verses.)

Word of God, word of life.

**Alleluia** *Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

**The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter (13:24-37), Sermon** (page 6)

**Hymn of the Day** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (public domain) LBW 25, ELW 244  
Sing to the tune of *O Savior, Precious Savior* (LBW 514, ELW 820)

*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.*

*The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him their precious crowns of gold.*

*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!*

### **The Apostle's Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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** (from *Sundays and Seasons*, ELCA worship guide)

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world, especially during this pandemic. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who are in crisis of any kind: for those who suffer loss of health, or family and friends, or home, or job, or any other needful thing. Bless all who help to relieve their burdens and provide for their needs. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. In this time of distancing, sustain all those we miss, and let them know the gifts of your blessing even while we cannot worship together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregations who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering, and support them when they struggle, and open our hearts to compassion for them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, **Our Father . . . .**

**Closing Hymn**            *Savior of the Nations, Come* (public domain)            LBW 28, ELW 263  
Sing to the tune of *Take My Life, That I May Be* (LBW 406, ELW 685)

*Savior of the nations, come; show the glory of the Son!  
Darkness cannot hide your flame, shining bright as Jesus' name.*

*God the Father is his source, back to God he runs his course;  
Down to death and hell descends, God's high throne he re-ascends.*

*Shining stable in the night, breathing victory with your light;  
Darkness cannot hide your flame, shining bright as Jesus' name.*

**Benediction:** The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace. Amen.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Jesus is coming soon!