



FIRST SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

First Sunday of Advent  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Henrik Sonntag, Pastor  
120 N. Easton Road  
Glenside, PA  
215-884-3005

# GATHERING

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THE PRELUDE *Chorale Prelude on "Fling Wide the Door" (Macht Hoch die Tür)*  
David N. Johnson

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. OR**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

# OPENING HYMN

No. 259 Fling Wide the Door

*Macht Hoch die Tür*

## Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704

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# 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**

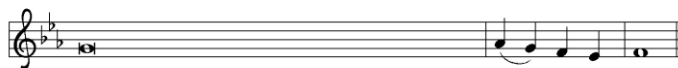
## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



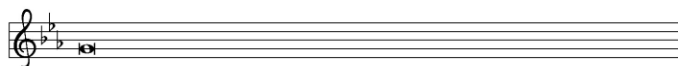
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Light A Candle  
for the Messiah



# THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

## No. 240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

*Tif In Veldele*

First Stanza Only

*Please be seated.*

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
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## 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.**

*Please be seated.*

# THE WORD

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## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>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!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>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.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>Do 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.**

# THE PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

8:00 *The Psalm will be read responsively with the assembly reading the verses in bold.*

10:30 *The antiphon is introduced by the choir, then is sung by all. The assembly sings the verses in **bold print**.*

Let your face shine up - on us and  
we shall be saved, and we shall be saved.

Psalm 80:7

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- <sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup>Restore | us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup>**O LORD | God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R**
- <sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the | bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**
- <sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- | way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
- <sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



# THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>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.

<sup>28</sup>“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. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Henrik Sonntag

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### No. 435 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

*Helmsley*

#### Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



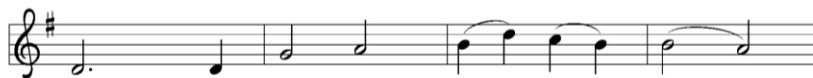
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:  
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

**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.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Please kneel or sit for the prayers:* This week's response is: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief, especially Richard Woodring, Karen Delaney, and all those on our prayer list. Deliver all in any need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence (*especially Francis Xavier, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able*

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*All greet each other with Christ's gesture of peace saying "Peace be with you."*

*Please be seated*

# MEAL

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## OFFERING

Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace

*Frederick Frahm*

Chancel Choir

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY No. 692 We Are an Offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

# THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Concludes with ... **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has the lyrics: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff concludes with the lyrics: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' Each staff ends with a double bar line.

## THE SANCTUS

Page 108

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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of'. The second staff continues with the lyrics: 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff has the lyrics: 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the'. The fourth staff concludes with the lyrics: 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' Each staff ends with a double bar line.

# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

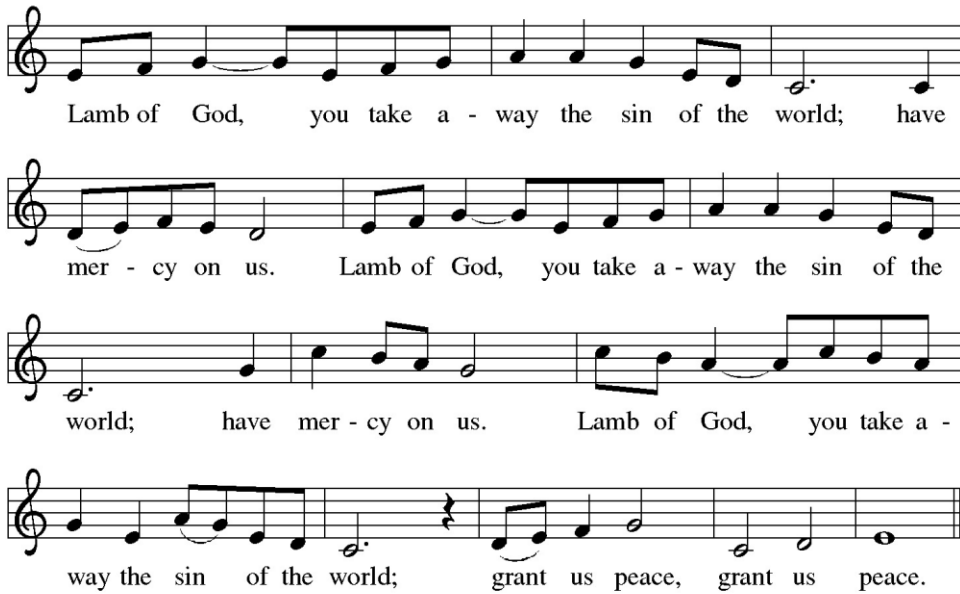
Page 112

*Please be seated.*

## THE COMMUNION

“Lamb of God”

Page 112



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.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

Page 113

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Concludes with **Amen**.

## SENDING

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THE BLESSING

Page 114

THE SENDING HYMN

No. 260 The King Shall Come

Consolation



## The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

*Please be seated for the announcements.*

## PARISH NOTICES AND JOYS

SENDING: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE *Chorale Prelude on "The King Shall Come"*

(*Consolation*)

David N. Johnson