





St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Wilton, WI 1st Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023

Inviting People to

Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy

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.

*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

'Christ, Be Our Light!'

We wait for the coming of Christ, the light of the world

Come Lord Jesus

Hymn: "Christ, Be Our Light" ELW #715, v. 1

The true light, which enlightens everyone is coming into the world.

Come Lord Jesus

The light shines in the darkness And the darkness will not overcome it.

Christ, shine in your church today

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways

Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.
Amen.

for the sake of our waiting world.

Hymn "The King Shall Come" ELW#260

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 ELW p.184

*Canticle of Praise "Glory to God" ELW p.185

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudsen Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin,& Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter Puhl, Eason Kelbel, Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach; children throughout the world.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children every where, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray.

Amen

FALL, 2024 FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

Are you a hoarder when it comes to Christmas decorations? Buy new ones but keep the old packed away, for whatever reason. We'd like, as you unpack your decorations this year and set those you decide not to use to the side, to consider donating them now so we can have a fundraiser next November. Lori Brueggen has offered to spearhead this fundraiser which will also include other vendors to bring people to the event.

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

A total of 49 units were collected at yesterday's blood drive. Thank you to all who donated.

DECORATING

Thank you to all who came yesterday and helped to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. Also, for putting the nativity scenes outdoors.

*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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

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.

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O 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 boilto 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 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. ²In the presence of Ephraim, Boniamin, and Manassoh

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;

give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; shall be saved.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Bill Horn; Organist: Nalani Bever;

Reader: Kirstin Arndt; Altar: Barb Bever & Karen Arzt

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Judy Bever, Sally Dana, Scott Geier, Alan Sherman, Erin Laperle.

CALENDAR

Wed., Dec, 6	Movie Matinee	12:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 10	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Church Council	11:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOULS FOR JESUS

We have an opportunity for you to help spread the Gospel and clean your closets!! Souls for Jesus is an organization located in Milwaukee with their mission to send new or gently used shoes to countries in Africa, where 1 in 2 people live in poverty. Since 2010 a total of 774,361 shoes have been sent to the following countries:

Ethiopia, Kenya, Bundi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Lesotho, Liberia, Zambia, Swaziland, Botswana

We have placed boxes in the corner of the narthex for you to place any shoes you wish to donate. Thank YOU.

THANKOFFERING

Envelopes are located in the narthex if you wish to make a donation to the W-ELCA Thankoffering. We will collect through next Sunday. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God" ELW p.191

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Hymn "We Praise You, O God" ELW#870
Dismissal

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

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.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

"Alleluia. Lord,"

ELW p. 188

GOSPEL 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 13:24-37

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:] ²⁴"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.

²⁸"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. ²⁹So

^{*}Benediction

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.

³²"But 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.

Sermon Reverend Bill Horn

*Hymn "Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us" ELW#707

Apostles' Creed

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.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Merciful God, receive our prayer.)

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Offertory Hymn "Hark, the Glad Sound" ELW #239 v. 1

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 190

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 190

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.