

LORDSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 3, 2023

10:00AM



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Worship Bulletin
Sunday, December 3, 2023
Lordstown Lutheran Church

Rev. Keith Brown —Pastor
Mrs. Margaret Thomas— Organist
Mrs. Lois Dorazio—Choir Director
Mrs. Erica Thomas - Lectors

We welcome you to worship with us this morning and we're glad you are here. May God bless our time together and may you feel renewed and refreshed as we celebrate God's unconditional love for the world. Thank you for joining us today and we hope you will return again soon.

Children's Sunday School meets on the 2nd & 4th Sundays during worship, and Children's Service project on the 5th Sunday during the School year. As a courtesy the congregation does not stand during worship unless instructed to do so.

Today's Worship Theme

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

Entering Into God's Presence

WELCOME

PRELUDE - A Quiet Time for Reflection

Confession and Forgiveness

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

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

P: Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Everlasting God,

**P: 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
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.**

L: 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.

P: Amen

GATHERING HYMN vs ALL

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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!

The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of ever-lasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of

Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Advent Hymn Vs 1

257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

First Sunday of Advent

Erica Thomas - Boyle & Family

L: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

ALL: Amen.

Light the First Candle



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together.

ALL: 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

God's Word for Us Today

Special Music

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

LECTOR

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.

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 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: 80:1-7, 17-19 LECTOR

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**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.**

7Restore 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;

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 LECTOR

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: Mark 13:24-37

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 St. Mark

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 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.”

Praise to you O Christ

Sermon

Rev. Brown

HYMN OF THE DAY VS ALL

435 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

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

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

thou - sand thou - sand this saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints and this the 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!

Together We Say What We Believe

APOSTLES CREED

**ALL: 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.**



We Offer Our Prayers and Thanksgiving

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each intercessory prayer the Pastor says:

” Merciful God,“ and the people respond

“**Receive our prayer.**”

OFFERING SONG

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God, above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



OFFERING 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**

*Offering Plates are Located by the doors to the Sanctuary or
You may mail your financial gifts to the church.*

Attn: Pat Hogan

5615 Palmyra Rd SW, Lordstown 44481

The Great Thanksgiving

This Table of Christ welcomes all without exception. Join us and experience the love of Christ as we come together to share in this sacred meal.

CHILDREN MAY ALSO RECEIVE A PASTORAL BLESSING. PLEASE TAKE A SMALL CUP FROM THE TRAY WHEN IT IS OFFERED. WINE WILL BE POURED FOR EACH PERSON BY AN ASSISTANT AND GRAPE JUICE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CENTER OF THE CUP TRAY IF PREFERRED. BREAD WILL BE BROKEN INTO SMALL PIECES AT THE COMMUNION RAIL AND GIVEN TO EACH PERSON.

DIALOGUE

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



PREFACE OF THE DAY

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.

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:

SANCTUS (tune: *Holy, holy, holy*)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
Heav'n and earth embrace your glory
Praise we cry to you.
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.
Hosanna, hosanna, praise forevermore.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world; for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, and inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

ALL: 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

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Through the great Comforter, Advocate, and our faithful Guide, we have become a part of God's holy love. And so we pray to the eternal one

ALL: 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

Going Forth to Serve

BLESSING

L: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit† remain upon you now and forever.

AMEN

SENDING HYMN

ALL VS

The King Shall Come

260



- 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.



DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Altar Flowers

Donated by an Anonymous Donor

To provide altar flowers for worship, please sign up on the poster in the church lobby. \$25 for one vase \$50 for two.



PRAYER LIST & PASTORAL CONCERNS

Please keep our loved ones in your prayers this week

Immediate & Ongoing Health Concerns: Lucas Paxson, Ron Hill, Phyllis Housel, Jean Housel, Ted Paxson, Leo Divencenzo, Tiffany Fellows, Destiny Givens, Anna Strickland, JoAnn Leepard, Joe Harrison, Molly and Family, Mary Sabol, Mark Molnar, Laura Paxson, Rachael Ann, Ilona Rupnik, Harvey Lutz Jr.

Compassion Child: Marc Yvans.

Active Duty Military: Julian Krusely, Jason Layfield, Talon Brown, Kiana Gates

Scout Troop 20 and its leaders

Our Monthly Mission Outreach and The Children of Lordstown Elementary School

World Peace: Especially for those living in the region of Ukraine and Russia.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 330 399-7227 OR
EMAIL US AT LTOWNLUTHERAN@YAHOO.COM TO NOTIFY US OF FRIENDS OR
RELATIVES WHO NEED TO BE ADDED OR REMOVED FROM THE PRAYER LIST.

NEXT SUNDAY, Sunday, December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8