

Cross of Christ and Cannon River  
Lutheran Churches  
*Faithful Through Generations*  
November 29, 2020



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.

Welcome and Announcements

**HYMN**                    *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*    (Verse 1)    **ELW #240**

**BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

L: Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

**C: Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**                    *"All Earth is Hopeful"*    (Verses 1 & 4)    **ELW #266**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

L: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

L: 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 with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **GREETING**

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L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**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.**

## **THE FIRST READING**

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**Isaiah 64:1-9**

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 SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

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.**

## **GOSPEL**

**Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark. **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.**

**SERMON**

Deacon Todd Portinga

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *“The King Shall Come”*    (Verses 1, 2 & 5)    **ELW#260**

\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**)

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

\*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.**

\*BENEDICTION: May God bless you and keep you. May God’s face shine on you and be gracious to you. May God look on you with favor and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

\*L: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**