



Bethel Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

*It all comes down to this, what you require of me:
love my neighbor as myself, and You above all things.*

*Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God.
In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God.*

*It all comes down to this, to be Your hands and feet,
Good news to all the world, the truth will set us free.*

*Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God.
In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God.*

*It's beauty for ashes, it's mourning to dancing.
It's closer and closer, the Kingdom of heaven.
It's beauty for ashes, it's mourning to dancing.
It's closer and closer, the Kingdom of heaven.*

*Years from now we'll see the fruit our hands have sown.
Faith just like a seed, the only way it grows.*

*Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God.
In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God.*

*Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God.
In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God.*

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GATHERING PRAYER

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP FROM (Psalm 25:1-10)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

³ **Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

⁵ **Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷ **Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!**

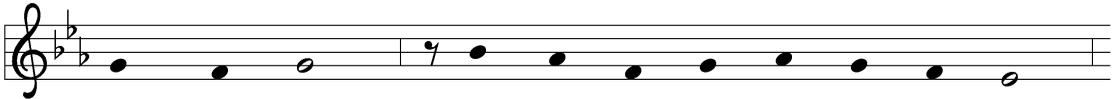
⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ **He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.**

¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord.***

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Dave Young

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

435 in the Red Hymnal

***OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. We lift to you now the names on our prayer list. (*Names are read from the prayer list*). And we lift to you those who are on our hearts in this moment, either silently or aloud. (*Pause*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"To You, O God, I Lift Up My Soul"

Words & Music by Bob Hurd

Offered by the Bethel Worship Choir

HOLY COMMUNION

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

*JESUS' WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION & THE 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

SENDING

*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**
The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG

Everlasting God

*Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.*

Our God, You reign forever. Our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

*You are the everlasting God, The everlasting God, You do not faint, You won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need.
You lift us up on wings like eagles.*

*Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.*

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

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