

An evening setting of Holy Communion



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 2, 2017
5:30 pm
Holy Communion
Interim Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoover
Interim: Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile
Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994
www.stdavidslutheran.org

Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected with the offering.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

Prayer Requests may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

For your comfort there is a restroom and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

Devotional –Copies of Scripture readings for the month of December, Gospel Messages for Advent, Christ in Our Home (large print) devotions and The Word in Season devotions are located on the table in the back, next to the prayer box.

For your convenience there is a cry room for infants, equipped with changing table and supplies, a crib, rocking chairs, blankets, and toys. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex, turn right down the hallway, and it is the last room on the left.

INTRODUCTION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking for forgiveness in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Congregation Kneels/Sits.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy Name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, our heavenly Father, I confess to you that I have grievously sinned against you in many ways; not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully understand, but which are all known to You. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my offences, and I call upon Your great goodness to have mercy upon me, for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to forgive my sins, and graciously to help my infirmities. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and for the sake of the sufferings, death, and resurrection of His dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, forgives us all our sins. As a minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you who do truly repent and believe in him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

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

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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 assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah, the 64th chapter.

{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 (read responsively)

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

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;*
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

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

³ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

⁴ **O LORD | God of hosts,***
how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people?

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

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

⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁷ **And so will we never turn a- | way from you;***
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁸ Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

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

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians the 1st chapter.

{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

The holy gospel according to Mark the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

{In today's reading, Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.}

[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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

The assembly stands.

Together we confess our faith:

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

A brief silence.

Give light to your people, Lord. As the darkness grows and we await the return of daylight, give new life to your church. Shape our communities to be faithful vessels of the gospel for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore your creation, Lord. You give the earth opportunities for both sleep and awakening. Thank you for the gift of restful seasons so new life may grow according to your appointed time. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace to the nations, Lord. Keep us alert to injustice and oppression, give us courage to cry out for what is right, and guide world leaders toward fairness and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for you. Be near to those whose lives are shaken, those who are experiencing loss, those who long for healing and wholeness, those who live with HIV and AIDS, and those who are in any kind of need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for child care workers, teachers, Sunday school leaders, and all who nurture and educate children. We give you thanks for their diligence and devotion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

From ages past, your faithfulness has never failed. Shine your face upon us and bring us into the company of all your saints in light (*especially the missionary Frances Xavier*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When our forebears chose the way of sin and death,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus to make the cross the way of life.

There, on that cross,
He willingly offered Himself up as a full,
perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

By that gift of love and grace
we know the depth of your love,
the power of your forgiveness,
and the hope of life with you.

Therefore we offer ourselves
as disciples who follow
as witnesses to the world
and as living memory of His gift of grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son our Lord.

Amen, come Lord Jesus.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen.

THE 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.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

The assembly is seated.

The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

COMMUNION HYMN

Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

QUIET MEDITATION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Tender Branch, Hidden Life

Advent begins with urgent cries for help. From Isaiah: “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down” (Isa. 64:1). And from the prayer of the day: “Stir up your power”—stir up your strength—and come to help us.

Our gospel today refers to suffering that will darken sun and moon and cast stars into freefall. The psalmist and Isaiah cry that God’s people have drunk bowls of tears and feel as frail as dead, wind-tossed leaves. God’s face is hidden. The desperation of a cry for help reflects the intensity of a trauma. So do the calls to God for action: Tear open! Stir up! Strike as forcefully as earthquake or fire! But any cry for help is also a sign of hope: we expect someone to hear and to respond.

In the gospel Jesus tells of his future coming with power and glory. But then, surprisingly, he shifts his focus from the clouds of heaven to a single fig tree whose branch will become tender so it can put forth new leaves. Even if everything in our world is shaken and falls, in God’s time there is promise of new life and a future season. Power exists not only in one hundred billion galaxies, but in tough bark that softens to allow fresh growth.

In October 2001 workers at Ground Zero uncovered a charred, twisted, pear tree. Astonishingly, the tree was still alive. It has been nurtured and given a place of honor at the 9/11 Memorial as “The Survivor Tree.” Its seedlings are sent as encouragement to communities that have experienced tragedy. When God seems absent or silent, Jesus awakens us to the hidden life that courses through us as through the branches of a tree. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away”—and here we are, two thousand years later, gathered around those very words (Mark 13:31). Jesus alerts us to God’s nearness in ordinary leaves, words, responses to our cries.

Daily Readings for the Week
December 3-9

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> Psalm 79 Micah 4:1-5 Revelation 15:1-8</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> Psalm 79 Micah 4:6-13 Revelation 18:1-10</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> Psalm 79 Micah 5:1-5a Luke 21:34-38</p>
<p><i>Thursday</i> Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Hosea 6:1-6 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10</p>
<p><i>Friday</i> Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 11:19-26</p>
<p><i>Saturday</i> Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Ezekiel 36:24-28 Mark 11:27-33</p>