

**Then two will be
in the field; one
will be taken and
one will be left.
Matthew 24:40, NRSV**

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

ELW Setting 3

Pastor: The Reverend Faron H. Johnson

Minister of Music: Michael Busija

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 after the service.

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 receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head.

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, equipped with a changing table and supplies 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 – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

INTRODUCTION

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Amen.

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 our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

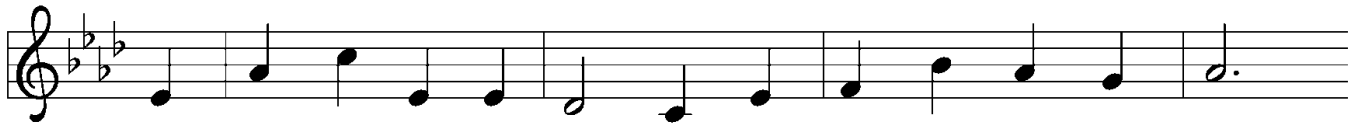
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

GREETING

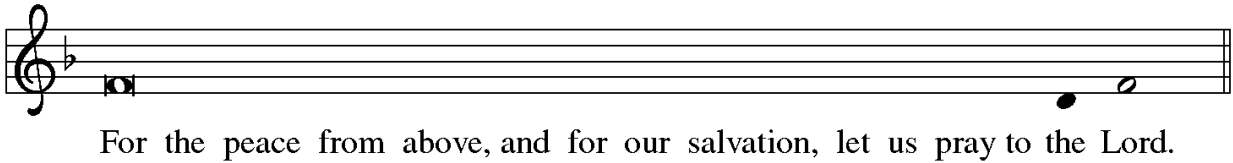
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

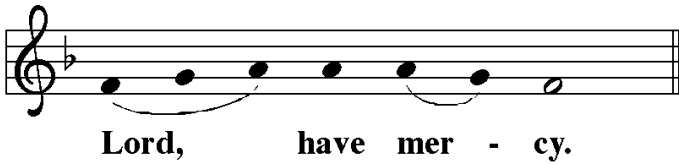
KYRIE



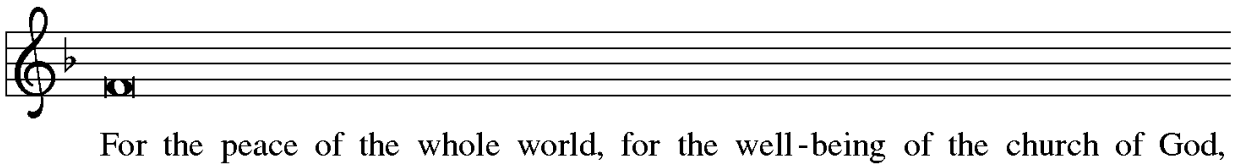
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



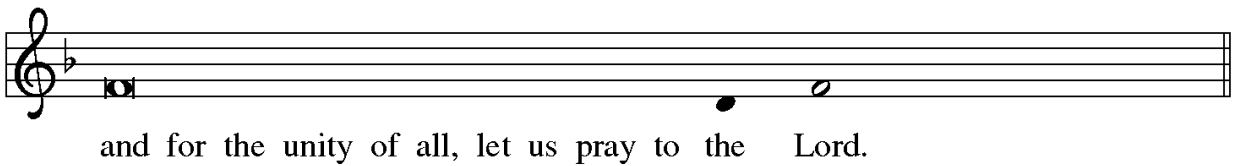
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



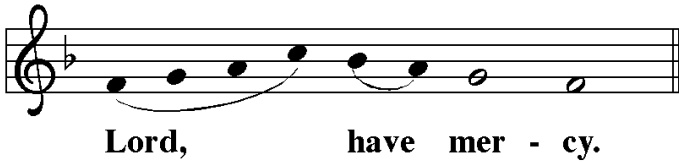
Lord, have mer - cy.



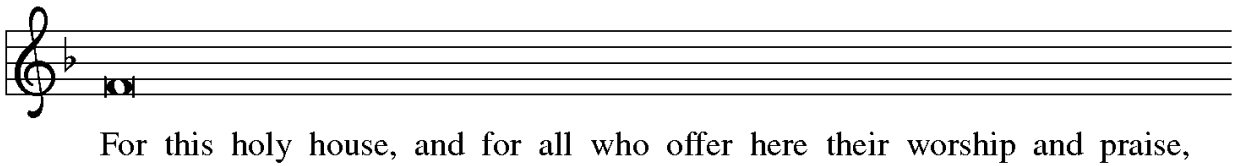
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



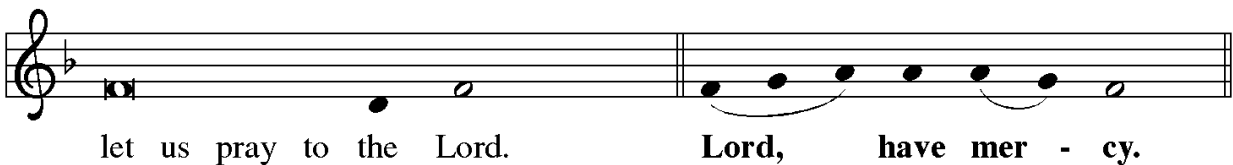
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

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 save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD WITH CHILDREN

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Use this blessing when lighting the first candle.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You call all nations to walk in your light

and to seek your ways of justice and peace,

for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Rouse us from sleep,

that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes

and welcome him into our hearts and homes,

for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah the 2nd chapter.

{The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"}

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

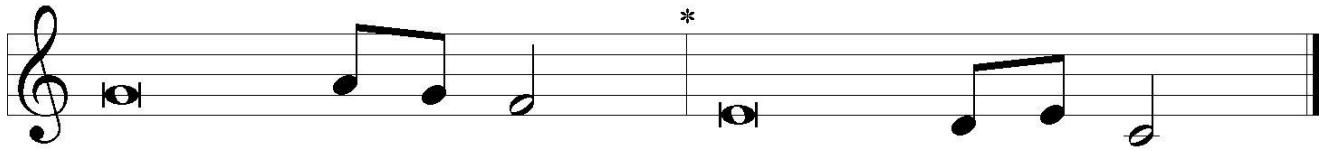
⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122 (sung responsively)

Psalm Tone 1



¹I was glad when they | said to me,

“Let us go to the house | of the LORD.”

²**Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
“May they pros- | per who love you.**

⁷Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
I will seek to | do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans the 13th chapter.

{Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.}

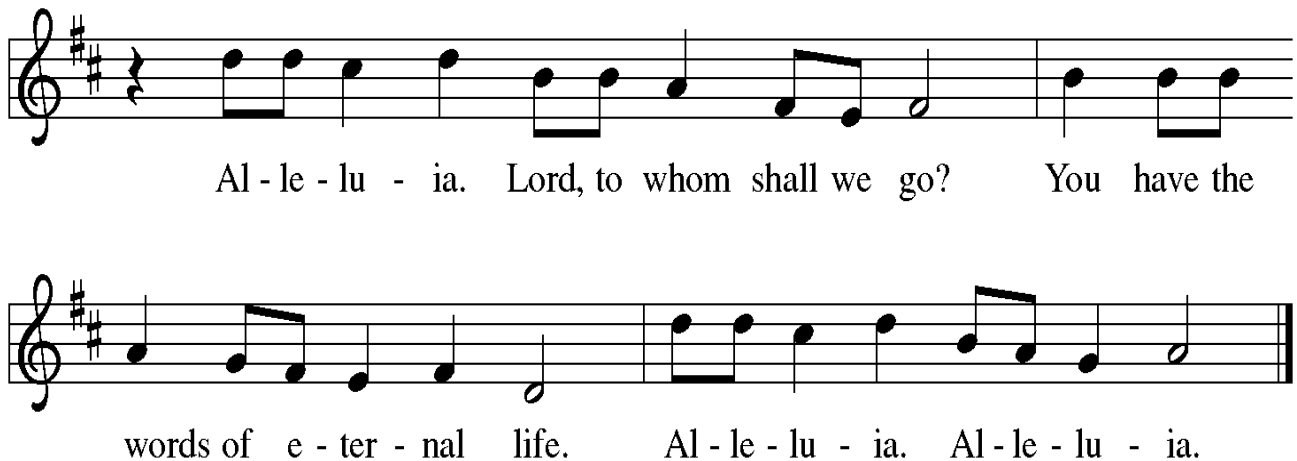
¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

{Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.}

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

HOMILY

Silence for reflection may follow.

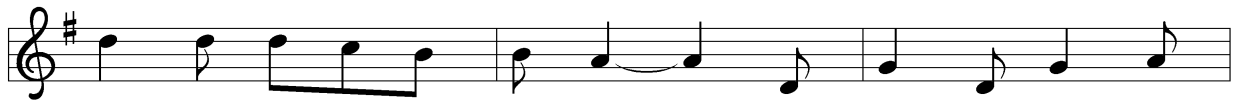
The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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✦ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (10:30 AM ONLY)

PRESENTATION

(Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.)

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

I present *Lillian Eleanor Griffith* to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *Lillian* baptized into Christ? **I do.**

As you bring *Lillian* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *Lillian* grow in the Christian faith and life? **I do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *her* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? **I do.**

People of God, do you promise to support *Lillian* and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ? **We do.**

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

Lillian, I baptize you in the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the presiding minister prays.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Lillian* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Lillian, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

A lighted candle is given to the baptized.

WELCOME

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

The minister and baptismal group face the assembly.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission, we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(Sung 3 Times)

You Belong to Christ

You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.

al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: *Holy Baptism and Related Rites, Renewing Worship 3*
Music: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the church cries to you. Strengthen the church in the land of Jesus' birth. Wherever Christians gather, empower them to proclaim love and defy the powers of sin and evil. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your creation cries to you. Sustain the balance of all living things. Protect the earth from drought, bitter cold, eroding coastlines, and fires and floods, that the earth may flourish. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the nations cry to you. Bring justice to the marginalized, courage to peacemakers, wisdom to leaders, and hope to generations who have only known conflict, oppression, or poverty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your people cry to you. Comfort those separated from loved ones by distance, estrangement, or loss. Help us as we care for others and rely on others' care. (*We pray especially for . . .*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, this congregation (*or place of ministry*) cries to you. Guide our worship, service, and outreach, that our hearts and hands may be opened in generosity toward others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, we remember those whose days on earth have ended, who live now in your eternal love (*especially*). Remind us of their faithful witness, that their example might inspire our daily living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

Please be seated after the Peace is shared.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN

Verses 1 & 2

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

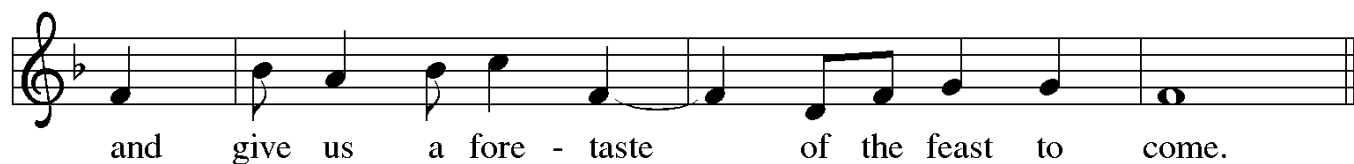
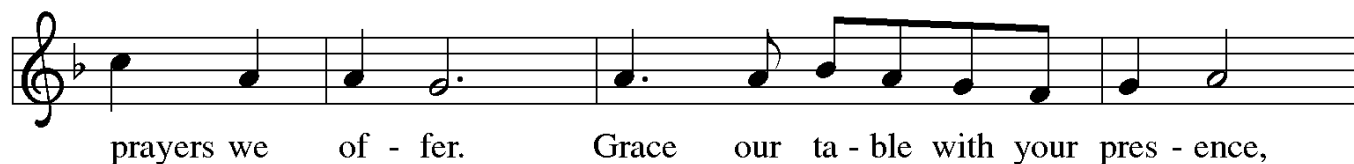
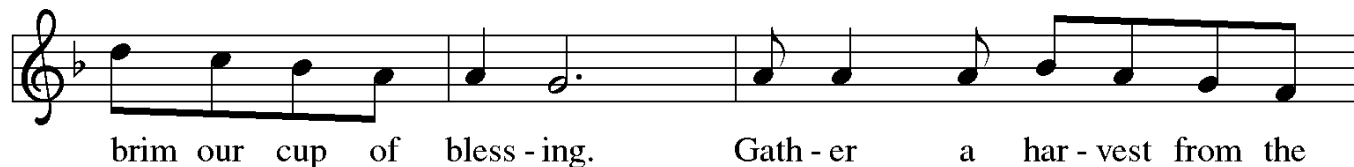
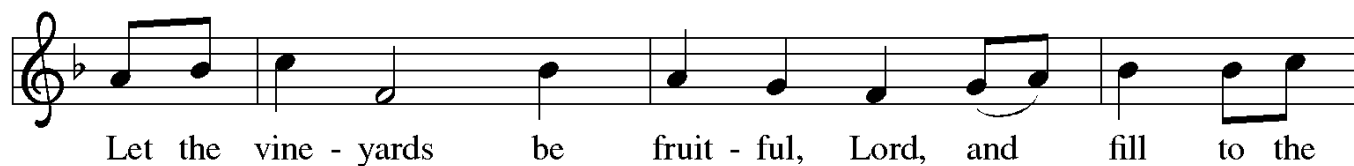
Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

The assembly stands.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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OFFERTORY 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.

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.

PREFACE

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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, 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 a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

The assembly is seated.

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.

Please come forward by the center aisle. Pick up a communion glass from the trays at the end of the center aisle. Then move to the altar where you may kneel or stand. After receiving the elements the empty glass can be returned to the tray for empty glasses as you return to your pew by the side aisles. Be sure to fill out the pew pad.

COMMUNION HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -
quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed
though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav' - n - ly,
por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your
heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious
fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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The assembly stands.

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

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.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

QUIET MEDITATION

SENDING HYMN

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 1, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hurry! Hurry! Slow! Slow!

“Yalla! Yalla! Hurry!” shouted Yusef in a friendly, if impatient, order to his laggardly collection of travelers. He was their Palestinian guide. His Arabic “Yalla! Yalla!”—a plea as predictable as breath itself—urged them with the honking determination of a mother goose prodding disoriented goslings. Through the old city’s ancient labyrinth of streets, shopkeepers’ cries of “Schwei! Schwei!” (“Slow! Slow!”) prefaced their own seductive plea for these same travelers to come in and spend. But the shopkeepers’ mixed hopes of calculating and managing the day and its hours were lost in the fray of “yalla” and “schwei.”

About the day and the hour no one knows.

Predictions are pointless, Jesus tells his disciples. What they wanted to know, he says, neither angels nor even the Son could tell them. Upon their first hearing, these words of Jesus may whistle by, their sharp edge of warning falling on the dull side of awareness. In our attempts to manage the unknown, we miss the unexpectedness of the Son of Man’s coming.

Jesus’ cosmic alert, among the last of his teachings before his death in Jerusalem, leads the church’s Advent procession toward his very earthly birth in Bethlehem. Jesus’ coming to us is beyond our attempts to manage, exempt from schedules, and unaffected by our pleas. “Yalla! Yalla! Schwei! Schwei!” To no avail.

Yet, we are still prompted to be ready for the unknown. How can that puzzle be solved? Only fools and charlatans compute the hours that even angels cannot assign. The answer to the divine riddle will not be revealed by asking “When?” Perhaps the question is “How?” Or, better yet, we may begin with “Where?” The rough and ragged chill of a Bethlehem stable is a good place to begin . . . a clue for the mystery ahead.

Daily Readings for the Week December 1-7

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sunday: | First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44 |
| Monday: | Psalm 124 Genesis 8:1-19 Romans 6:1-11 |
| Tuesday: | Psalm 124 Genesis 9:1-17 Hebrews 11:32-40 |
| Wednesday: | Psalm 124 Isaiah 54:1-10 Matthew 24:23-35 |
| Thursday: | Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Isaiah 4:2-6 Acts 1:12-17, 21-26 |
| Friday: | Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Isaiah 30:19-26 Acts 13:16-25 |
| Saturday: | Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Isaiah 40:1-11 John 1:19-28 |

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