

Advent

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 29, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD—FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* — French processional, 15th century Cantor

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

PM: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PM: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, the Word made flesh, a burst of love and light shining in a world of darkness. Gathered in a season of lengthening shadows, we look to our God who calls us by name.

For we are God's beloved. We are children of the light. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

Therefore, let us live as children of the light. Mindful of our baptism, let us clothe ourselves in the love of Christ and put on the hope revealed to us.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah — Yiddish folk tune Cantor

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C: 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.

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Come Now, O Prince of Peace — Geoyong Lee, b. 1947 Cantor

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

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.”

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

What Kind of Waiting

Pastor Jim Kruse

About 10 years ago, when I was approaching 60 years old, I thought it was about time to start thinking more carefully about retirement. And so I started doing a bit of research about all the strategies you can use to get organized as retirement gets closer and closer. I came across a short little article written by an estate lawyer from Toronto, named Les Kotzer.

Kotzer wrote about an exchange that happened when he first met with a husband and wife in their late 50's, who came to his office. “They were smartly dressed,” he said. “And drove up in a luxury model car.” He was surprised when he found out that the woman worked as a substitute teacher. So he asked her husband about his profession. “Harry’s not going to tell you this, but he’s a waiter,” answered his wife. When Kotzer asked at which restaurant he worked, she corrected him. “Oh, Harry’s not that kind of a waiter. He’s waiting for his inheritance.”

It has been long known that Baby Boomers have been the worst savers of money, and the best spenders of money, that the United States has ever had. Their parents on the other hand, most of them Depression-era children and young adults, were by nature some of the best savers. As a result, one of the primary retirement strategies of many baby boomers has been simply, “waiting.” Waiting for their parents to bail them out one last time.

Over the course of last decade, a lot has been learned about the unusual strategy for funding retirement. For many of these “waiters,” it has not gone well. On average, Baby Boomers who have been waiting for inheritance have overestimate how much they will get by about 50 percent. And the credit monitor Equifax, suggests that the average person aged 55-65 is carrying about \$25,000 in consumer debt, such as credit cards and car loans.

The urgent need for cash has also given rise to a new phenomenon called, “The Inheritance War.” Court files have filled with challenges to wills by claimants nearing retirement age. And the sheer nastiness of family battles is becoming more and more challenging to the lawyers who have to sort it all out. An estate lawyer named, Megan Connolly, recently wrote, “There is the attitude out there that mom’s and dad’s savings are communal family property, that what’s Mom’s is mine.”

As we enter into the season of Advent, we can learn from the baby boomer “waiters” of today. According to the readings that have been read, there is something more to Advent than just waiting for Christmas to arrive. And we are making a serious miscalculation of what is coming, if we are counting on the events of Christmas to save us from ourselves and our troubled world.

Isaiah says we are waiting for God to shake things up, to tear open the heavens, set the world on fire, and do something we don’t expect. Paul tells the Corinthians to wait with a kind of strength and blamelessness until “the day of the Lord.” And Matthew has Jesus saying, “Keep alert,” for God’s power and glory break into life at a day and hour no one expects.

This kind of attentive waiting has a new “edginess” to it this year like never before. We been caught in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly nine months now. And in

these last days and weeks, the grip is tighter than it has ever been. We are now only three and a half weeks away from Christmas. Expectations that we will be celebrating the Christmases that we once knew are fading fast. What will happen to Christmas, with all of its traditions, all of the festive decorating, all of the gatherings, all of the giving and receiving of gifts?

As we have all learned, we do not have to turn our backs on all of the activities and joys of life, simply because we have to be cautious about becoming infected or passing the virus along to others. We have learned how to adapt. With a little ingenuity, Christmas can still be Christmas, version 2020, without shunning all the connections with friends and family, all the giving of gifts, and all the other traditions and expectations. These things are important and bring joy and meaning to our lives.

But doing Advent has always meant going about our business with the understanding that Advent and Christmas are not the same thing. Christmas is about waiting for the inheritance to come through just as we planned. Christmas is about knowing just exactly what you want to experience and working to make it happen. Christmas is about remembering the traditions, re-living the traditions, or establishing new traditions that can be repeated again and about until no one can remember why we started doing them in the first place. Christmas is about having expectations, communicating your expectations, and making sure that your expectations are met. Christmas is about having the bows just right on the wreaths, the ornaments just right on the tree, and the cookies just right on the plate. Waiting for what we know is coming has its own kind of satisfaction.

But this year we are struggling to go about our business against a reality that has caught us off guard and is crushing our best efforts to get back to living the life we want to be living. This year, instead of planning for a Christmas that we have always known, we are bracing for a future we know nothing about. The season of Advent was set aside for this kind of life.

“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,” the prophet prays to God on our behalf in the First Lesson for today. Advent is about God answering that prayer. Like the earthquake that shakes the mountain or the fire that brings the still water to a rolling boil, Advent is about hard, jarring reality. Advent is about the inheritance that falls short of expectations and the struggle to keep on living in spite of that. It is about the notice on the desk announcing the elimination of your job. It is about the harsh words of anger that damage a relationship and cannot be brought back into the mouth. Advent is about car crashes, and stock market crashes, and the hopes of life that crash into the jagged rocks with them. Advent is about an illness that is stealing time and loved ones from our lives at a breathtaking pace.

For Christmas to be Christmas, expectations have to be met. For Advent to be Advent, expectations have to be shattered, undermined, or otherwise changed by things we never thought could happen to us.

It is in the quiet desperation of these moments of life that God comes to us in Christ. He comes not as he first came at Christmas; as a gentle, quiet, unassuming child who grows up to give his life over into the threatening, crushing nature of the world for our sake. That work was accomplished by the babe of Bethlehem a long time ago. But, today, in our times, he comes to us in the words and work of the God of the ages. God comes to us in the risen Christ, powerful and bold. “This generation will not pass away until all these things have

taken place,” Jesus tells his friends. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

This is the God of power and glory. This is the God who tinkered with the sun and the moon and the stars and the planets, like a 4th-grader putting together her first science project of the solar system figuring out how it all works. This is the God who first imagined you, who gave you your drive for success, your heart of gold, and your wry sense of humor, long before you could even stand up on your own two feet. This is the God who every morning fills you with breath and life, who soothes your scrapes and pains—both of body and spirit, and who aches as you ache for that which will not heal—again, both in body and in spirit. This is the God who, when all else fails, and finally it will, calls you back to the place where you, and she, and all that is, worked things out in the first place. This is the God whose nature is pure goodness and whose coming is sure.

In the next few days, even as you go about your work of getting things just right, keep one eye open for the God who has his own ideas.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Cantor

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
To open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
Whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
The thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
May God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

OFFERING

As you consider how your life has been sustained emotionally, physically and financially, during the challenging events of 2020, please take this opportunity to give your gratitude to God through your generous financial support of the ongoing ministries of Our Savior Lutheran Church.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: 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.

C: Amen.

OFFERING SONG

In the Lord — Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; Taizé Community

Cantor

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

APOSTLES' CREED

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 THE PEOPLE

Walking in the light of the coming Savior, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who await God's justice.

Like a potter working clay, shape and mold the leaders of your church. Bless the Call Committee and the transition process of this congregation. Shape all bishops, pastors, and deacons into vessels fit to serve your people and the world according to your purpose. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Awaken us to the majesty and beauty of your creation—sun, moon, stars, and all living things—and teach us to use your creation in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stir up your power to bring justice to all nations, and inspire our leaders in ways that honor each member in our community. Where there is war, bring peace; where there is ethnic strife, bring reconciliation; where there is hunger, provide food; and where there is oppression, bring freedom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give ear and hear the cries of all in need: those who mourn, those without hope, those who live in fear, those who are sick, and those who have requested prayers from our congregation: Maya, Gail, Judy, Jerry, Mary, Ron, Carol, JD, Marlene, Nancy, Doyle and his family, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember all those in need. Search out all who cry to you in distress. We pray for all those affected by the surge in COVID-19 infections: comfort the families and friends of those who have died; grant healing for those who are recovering; protect and sustain those providing protection and care; and sustain those who are facing loss of income. Help us all to make wise and careful decisions during this upcoming holiday week. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide us as a shepherd throughout this Advent season in ways that lead us to see and respond to the needs of those in our community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

Sustain us by your grace, just as you sustained the saints who called on your name and whose lives gave witness to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

SENDING SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* — French processional, 15th century Cantor

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

BLESSING

PM: Having been justified by God's grace, you are now heirs of hope – a hope born in a manger. And with this hope, you have been blessed – a hope for all people. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on 'Lobe Den Herren — J.S. Bach

Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Andrew, Apostle, Monday, November 30

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552, Thursday, December 3

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749, Friday, December 4

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Sue Johnson, Debby Beck
Cantors:	Alice Lewis, Scott Hafso
Videographer:	Leslie Waltzer
Video Editor:	Dave Carlson
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Brad Marx

Readings for Next Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Reading: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Lost in the Night*

Text: Nordic hymn, tr. Olav Lee, 1859-1943, alt.; Music: Finnish folk tune

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslciissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Maya (Connie Fletcher)

Gail comfort and peace following cancer diagnosis. (sister of Sandy Aldworth)

Judy Shaffer comfort and peace of mind. (Sandy Aldworth)

Jerry Nack preparing for upcoming surgery for spinal stenosis. (Kate Gagnon)

Mary healing, wholeness, comfort and a clear sense that God is in control. (Marilyn Carlson)

Ron Gerde healing for recent medical issues. (Brother to Bob Gerde)

Carol Johnson ongoing medical issues, and mourning the recent loss of her husband & her brothers. (Mary Fricke)

JD Golick diagnosed with stage 3 stomach cancer, completed one cycle of chemotherapy. (nephew to Patty Gerde)

Marlene Pickering discernment in medical decisions to alleviate pain. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Cumming peace as she awaits an opportunity to move into Timber Ridge. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Anderson comfort and healing. (Cheryl Neeb)

Washington, Oregon and California Wildfires

peace for those affected. (Marilyn Carlson)

Doyle Watson his caregiver and their families, all positive for COVID 19. (Marilyn Carlson)

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Dave Carlson continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty Christopherson (Dianne Tanner); **Vern Lindquist; Mike Golick** (Patty Gerde); **Marian James; Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker** (son of

Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas; Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.**

Undergoing cancer treatment: Les Carlson (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: Liz Kidd (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Tom Wiese** (Sandy Aldworth); **Talton Johnson** (husband of Carol Johnson); **Jean Stanley** (sister-in-law to Alice Lewis); **Delores "Dee" Bakamus** (Dar Boni); **Marlene Braun** (sister to Cheryl Neeb); **Nikki** (niece to Doug & Dianne Tanner); **Richard "Dick" Birdsall** (Dianne Tanner); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Bob Gray** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: Mike special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

