



WELCOME

Pastor Paul Lutz

PRELUDE

Grant Underwood

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: **Amen.**

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

P: Most merciful God,

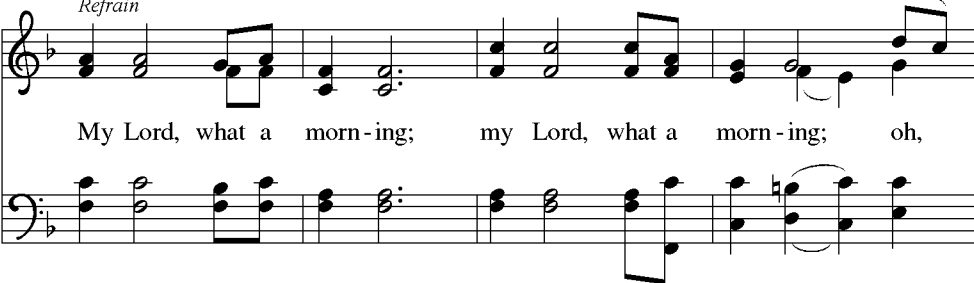
C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

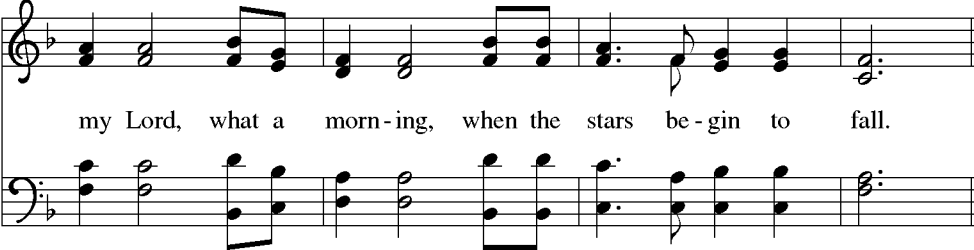
C: **Amen**

## My Lord, What a Morning

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

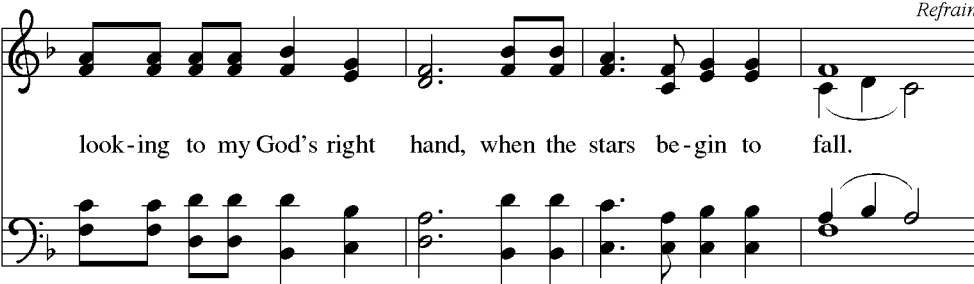


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P:** 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.**

*A Kyrie may be spoken.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

**C. Amen.**

# WORD

## First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Dennis Schroeder

L. A reading from Isaiah

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

L. The word of the Lord

C. **Thanks be to God**

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

Dennis Schroeder

- <sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up on the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- <sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- <sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call up on your name.
- <sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Dennis Schroeder

L. A reading from Corinthians

*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.*

<sup>3</sup>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.

L. The word of the Lord

C. **Thanks be to God**

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.** (Ps. 85:7)

## THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

**Pastor Paul Lutz**

P. The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter

C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

[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.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord

C. **Praise to you, O Christ**

## THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the first candle on this wreath,  
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord  
when he comes with all the saints and angels.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

*Light the first candle.*

**Sing the first verse of Light One Candle.**

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

# NICENE CREED

**Assembly:**

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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

P. God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

P. We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

P. We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

P. We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

P. We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity -Loaves & Fishes, Our Daily Bread, Women's Center and Habitat for Humanity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

P. We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

P. We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

P. Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. **Amen.**

## ANTHEM

**Grant Underwood**

# CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb  
forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe;  
just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord,  
and sing the glory of your name?

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb  
forever and ever.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God.

All praise and thanks to you, holy God!

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb  
forever and ever.

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C. Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all.*

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.

## OFFERING MOMENT AND PRAYER

Pastor Paul Lutz

Generous God,  
you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

**C. Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✠ now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

## SCATTERING HYMN

ELW # 257

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
C. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**Grant Underwood**

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Year to date statements through 11/30/20 will be sent out the first week of December. Remember statements can be run at any time, please just reach out to Nicole Cable at [andcable03@yahoo.com](mailto:andcable03@yahoo.com) or 203.775.8358.

If you currently have an envelope # higher than 180, you will be assigned a new number for 2021. If you would like Nicole to set up annual giving online for 2021, please return the form to her by December 20<sup>th</sup>. If the financial secretary set this up for you last year, it will expire on 12/30/20.



### **2021 Encourage One Another**

#### **Annual Stewardship Appeal**

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,  
as indeed you are doing.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

#### **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

A congregation of the New England Synod,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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