

AUGUSTANA

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together
Advent 1, November 29, 2020

Welcome to worship. ...

Thanks just like on a Sunday morning when we worship together there are many who make it possible for us to worship together. Look at the end of the video for all those names.

GREETING

As we begin our time of worship we ask that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us.

ADVENT SONG & LIGHTING OF CANDLE

Advent is a time for waiting; It reminds us that we are also waiting for God to come to us, God in the form of the baby Jesus, who lived and died and rose for us.

We wait for God, who will come again in a new and surprising way. We light the first candle to remind us to wait.

The candle is lit. The song is sung

Leader: We give you thanks, O God, for it is you who called forth light,
and you led your people Israel with wonders and with signs.

**ALL: Lead us in this season's waiting with wonders speaking hope
and signs of Jesus' incarnation;**

Leader: For your mercy is our light and your compassion is our guide

**ALL: And with creation we glorify you
through the Son and in the Spirit now and evermore. Amen.**

Let us pray: God, in whom we hope, we wait for your coming to us once again. Strengthen us as we wait, so that we will not lack any spiritual gift. Help us to stay awake to the signs of your coming. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

- Clay malleable
- Hope?
- Broken leg ... mistakes ... aren't who we are for ever
- God is always at work in our lives

READINGS

A reading from Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
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!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, Word of life

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 13:24-37 **Glory to you O Lord**

`But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great
power and glory. 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.

'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. So
also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is
near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass
away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will
pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in
heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for
you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he
comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

The Gospel of our Lord; **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

One of the things about Advent is waiting. Waiting
This is a difficult message for our time ... it speaks of patience to people
who live in a high speed, broadband world of cell phones, laptops and
tablets.... Fast food Instant home improvement. All a magazine has to
do to promote sales is to describe an article as something that is fast and

easy ...We are not people who like to wait. Even in this Advent season of waiting.

I am sometimes tempted to read the last chapter of a book before finishing the chapters ahead of it.

In a sense we know how the story of Advent ends. If the four weeks of Advent are 4 chapters in our book. We know that the last chapter – the epilogue -- is Christmas. But, even though we know where this story is going, we wait.

I'd like to tell you a story about two kinds of waiting:

Just imagine you are at the airport. People are waiting for their flight. You notice a man who has dozed off. He is waiting for the plane to arrive but while he is waiting he is bored and so has decided to catch up on a little sleep. He's got plenty of time before his flight and so for now he is sleeping. He is *passively* waiting.

Also waiting for the plane is a little girl. She is excited about the arrival of the plane and flying up above the clouds. She can't sit still and constantly goes to the window gazing up into the sky. She chatters to the other people waiting for the plane, she even asks the sleepy man if he is getting on the plane too. The little girl's waiting is full of expectation,

excitement, waiting on tiptoe. She is anticipating that the plane will arrive at any moment. She is *actively* waiting.

Active waiting Passive waiting

There is another kind of waiting: fear and anxiety waiting – waiting for the other shoe to drop ... apocalyptic doomsday waiting. We know a lot about that kind of waiting these days. All too easy to do that kind of waiting this year! The daily news, the pandemic modelling that tell us how bad things could get if we don't change our ways ... It is so easy right now to get sucked into anxious waiting that wounds our souls.

Jesus does acknowledge this apocalyptic kind of waiting, but then he tempers it with the fig tree. The fig tree which was a normal part of daily life and yearly routine. The fig tree which grew all over Palestine both wild and cultivated. The fig tree that you know and depend on every year. Watch it. Carry on. Be prepared, but carry on.

So what is the best way to wait? I have nothing against someone taking a nap, but passive waiting ... might not serve us well.

And anxiety waiting will probably not help us either.

Active waiting: we heard about it last week: feed the hungry, cloth the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned. Like the fig tree these are needs that

are perennial Ongoing feed the hungry, cloth the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned.

Prayer: God our creator: you are the potter, we are the clay, and you form us in your image. Shape us by Christ's transforming power, that we may live out your compassion and justice, whole and sound in the realm of your peace. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC/HYMN "Lost in the Night"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

All: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbour; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

Pastor: People of God, hear this glad news by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: AMEN.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words "Hear us, O God" and you can make the prayer your own by responding "**Your mercy is great.**"

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.

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Especially we pray for health care workers and care givers. Fill them with compassion and give them the strength and energy to continue their work during stressful times. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis: refugees such as the Iqbal and Alhamad-Wahid families, the homeless, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and those living in poverty and facing food insecurity. We pray also for those who come to our door looking for help with groceries. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the organizations the seek to address those needs: Canadian Lutheran World Relief, The Primate's World Development and Relief Fund, the Saskatoon Foodbank and Learning Centre, CHEP, The Bridge, Salvation Army, and Friendship Inn. Hear us, O God. Support and guide them in their work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation, who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. We pray especially for Elsie, Orville and Carol, Hannah, Marguerite, Bruce, Gloria, Logan, William, Marcus, Bishop Gomez, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Anne Jane, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Martha, for those who feel alone, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts

(a pause to offer time to name others).

Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those 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.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and a Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:
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.

BLESSING

May the blessing of God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and always. AMEN.

DISMISSAL

In this season of active waiting: Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord: THANKS BE TO GOD

SENDING SONG Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn" # 242 v. 1 & 4

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out you joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark 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 ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

THANKS:

Worship Assistants: Angie Johnson, Alec Duncan

Musicians: Mik Bickis, Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy choir

Technician: Bryan Tastad, Greg Fowlie-Neufeld

ELW setting 4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Awake, awake and greet the new morn; text and music: Marty Haugen

Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #736256-A all rights reserved

Intercessory prayers adapted from Sundays and Seasons 2020; © 2006 Augsburg Fortress