

WELCOMING WORD *On this first Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus teaching his disciples the signs to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering. In the first reading the people of Jerusalem call on God to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past out of their life of ruin, conflict, and famine. In the second reading as Christians 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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
- C: shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

- L: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
- C: stir up your strength and come to help us.**

- L: Restore us, O God;
- C: let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

OPENING HYMN #28 Savior of the Nations, Come (vs. 1-3, 7)

Savior of the nations, come; Show the glory of the Son!
Ev'ry people, stand in awe; praise the perfect Son of God.

Not of human seed or worth, but from God's own mystic breath;
Fruit in Mary's womb begun when God breathed the Word, his Son.

Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child of the virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and man in one, eager now his race to run!

Shining stable in the night, breathing vict'ry with your light;
Darkness cannot hide your flame, shining bright as Jesus' name.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – The Candle of Hope

P: If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. We hesitate to reflect on all the mess around us in 2020. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need Advent! We need a Savior! The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence." So tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope. We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

Sung Response: #58 – Lo, How the Rose is Growing (vs. 1 & 4)

Lo, how a rose is growing, a bloom of finest grace;
The prophets had foretold it: A branch of Jesse's race would bear on perfect flow'r
Here in the cold of winter and darkest midnight hour.

This flow'r, so small and tender, with fragrance fills the air.
His brightness ends the darkness that kept the earth in fear.
True God and yet true man, he came to save his people from earth's dark night of sin.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Stir up your power,
- C: 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.**

FIRST LESSON: 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.

SECOND LESSON: 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.

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.”

MESSAGE Intern Tamara Siburg

HYMN #725 *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Bless'd be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us, a branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
The oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all
That we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise
In holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way
To tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
To drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peac.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

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.

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER **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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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. 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.

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #33 The King Shall Come

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray; Come quickly, King of kings.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Jeannie U'Ren
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Irene Bruflat
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)

Delores Bryant
Makenzee Smith
Brock Howe
Mary Krantz
Ruth Ann Nemet
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Shirley Thompson
Dorothy Twiton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MT. HOREB GIVING TREE Pick up tags at Miller's or online (mhgivingtree.weebly.com/). Drop off gifts/donations at United Methodist Church Saturdays from 10:30am until noon or Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM- Join us on ZOOM, 9:00 - 9:30 am, each Sunday morning. Youth, who are 3 years old - 8th grade are invited to participate. It is great seeing their faces each week. Lessons are also emailed, if you are unable to attend our ZOOM time. Email brenda.martin@elcmhoreb.org for the zoom link.

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on ZOOM - Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM each week to catch up with our church family. Time to connect and see each other! Zoom link is emailed each week. If you need the link, contact Pastor John, Tamara or Brenda.

ELC BINGO - Dec 10th at 7 pm - Spiritual Growth and Fellowship Committee will be hosting more Virtual Bingo Games. Everyone is welcome to join us for the fun, family friendly events. Winners will be awarded gift cards for local businesses. Join us!

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 79, A plea for mercy for Jerusalem

Tuesday, Micah 4:6-13, Restoration promised after exile

Wednesday, Luke 21:34-38, Exhortation to watch

Thursday, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, Prayer for restoration of God's favor

Friday, Acts 11:19-26, The Church in Antioch

Saturday, Ezekiel 36:24-28, Renewal of Israel

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: *"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."* Mark 13:37. Jesus is encouraging his followers to be observant of the signs of return, like how we can observe the signs of the seasons changing we can observe the signs of Jesus' return even though nobody but God knows when exactly that will be.

- How do you 'keep awake' to observe the signs of changing seasons?
- What signs do you think you'd see while waiting for Jesus' return?
- What do you think that it means to 'keep awake' in this context?
- What are somethings you might have 'fallen asleep' to?

PRAY: 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.**

BLESS: May you see Jesus in the face of those you meet this day. Amen!