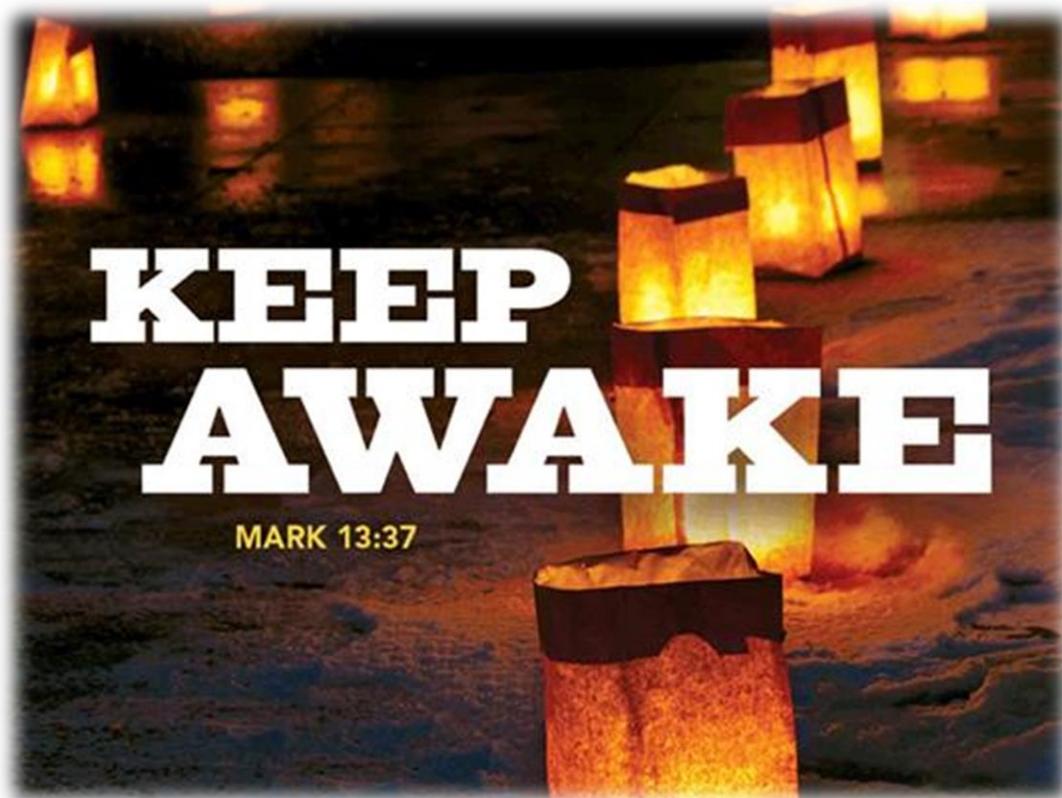




SERVICE OF THE WORD – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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

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.

Amen

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.

APOSTOLIC 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

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

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.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from 1st letter to the Corinthians.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor:

1. Praise the God of all cre - a - tion, God of
4. Come, O Spir - it, kin - dle fire in the

All:

mer - cy and com - pas - sion:
hearts of all your peo - ple: Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le -

lu - ia! Praise the Word of truth and life!

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, from the 13th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

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

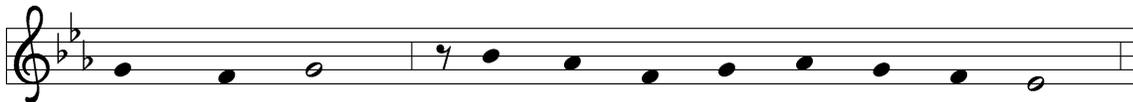
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

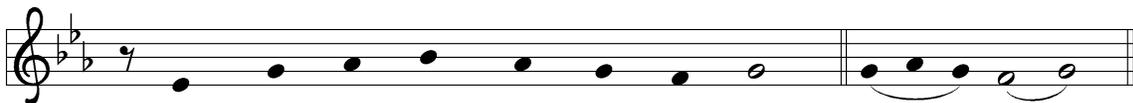
ELW 245



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

APOSTLES' CREED

We now profess the faith we share, using the words of the 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 INTERCESSION

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. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without shelter, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. 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 illnesses, especially for Julie, Henri, Bob, Karen, Neal, Jean, Margaret, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, Steve, John, Bea, Jack, Eric, Doug, Mary, Jennifer, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Ed, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died, 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.

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.

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE

Our Lord Jesus Christ sent forth his peace long ago, and it has continued to flow through generations of faithful followers. Today, his peace continues in you. The Peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you. Amen.

OFFERING

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Arr. Mark Hayes
Jeremy Mims, piano

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*)

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

We unite our voices in this time, joining in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en,
hal - low - ed be thy name; thy king - dom come; thy
will be done on earth as it is in heav - en.
Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -
give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who
tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to temp -
ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
All:
For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er - more. A - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you in this season of waiting, and unto eternal life.
Amen.



- 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-joyce! Re-joyce!
 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.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

PRAYER FOR A TIME OF PANDEMIC

While we are waiting, watching, and hoping together, we lift our voices in prayer.

Healing Lord, you know the pain of your people. We pray for those who suffer from this pandemic. Give strength to the sick, to care providers, and to those who are harmed in any way. Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones. May your wisdom yield vaccines. May your justice provide for their fair distribution. Make us witnesses for you in this time. In this season, make your people a sign of Emmanuel. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

www.gracerockhill.com

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