

First Sunday of Advent "Wait for the Lord"

Service of Prayer and Healing

November 29, 2020 | 11am

WELCOME!

As a community in the model of Christ, we warmly welcome all who have come seeking God in worship at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. We welcome people of every race, gender, ethnic background, social status, physical ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Together in our diversity and as a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we seek to embrace the love of God offered to us in Jesus Christ. We gather to experience the presence of God in Word and Sacrament and to give praise to God who loves us unconditionally.

Welcome! It is a joy to worship together!

ONLINE: Our Redeemer's live streams worship online using Zoom and Facebook Live. Please join us at 11am on upcoming Sundays. Here's how:

- By phone: call 1-206-337-9723. Then enter this number when prompted: 822 691 346. This method will let you listen in, but not view the service.
- By Facebook Live: Go to www.facebook.com/ourredeemers. You don't have to have a facebook account – it's a public channel.
- By Zoom:

Download the Zoom app to your computer, tablet, or cell phone. It's free! Click this link: https://zoom.us/j/822691346. The link works from 10:45am – 12:15pm every Sunday.

BULLETINS: The bulletin for Sunday and any special services is available on our website for download: www.ourredeemers.net/virtual-worship. You can print it at home, or follow the pdf document on-screen.

Prayers of the People: Following the Hymn of the Day, the Assisting Minister will lead us in praying for the church, the world, and all those in need. To have your prayer requests, concerns or praises included, please post them in the chat window on Facebook or Zoom and the Welcome Minister will confidentially pass them on to the Assisting Minister.

OUR MISSION:

In the model of Christ and for the life of the world, we are an inclusive, devoted, caring and spiritual community that accepts challenges, takes risks and grows.

Cover Art by <u>Jan Richardson</u>

Today our worship includes a focus on Christ's ministry of healing and wholeness. God's will for all is wholeness and health in body, mind and spirit. So we pray for healing of physical ailments, as well as for healing in the midst of conflicts, emotional stress and struggle.

THE HEALING MINISTRY OF OUR REDEEMER'S is based on the following convictions:

God's intentional will for all persons is wholeness and health in body, mind and spirit.

The total life of the congregation—in all of its functions—is to be health-producing.

As Christians, we have a responsibility for a lifestyle of health in body, mind and spirit.

The Service of the Word for Healing symbolizes the fact that all worship events of the Church should be experiences of healing in some form.

Prayers and concerns for cure from illness is always consistent with the will of God.

We pray for the cure of illness without reservation, qualification or condition, at the same time knowing that not all illness is cured.

All persons may be healed (made whole), but not all may be cured.

We cannot explain in rational terms why there is illness other than to recognize that we are imperfect persons in an imperfect world.

God expects us to be faithful at all times and in prayer for body/mind/spirit health and to use those health-care methodologies we feel appropriate for our needs.

As a community in the model of Christ, we warmly welcome all who have come seeking God in worship at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. We welcome people of every race, gender, ethnic background, social status, physical ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Together in our diversity and as a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we seek to embrace the love of God offered to us in Jesus Christ. We gather to experience the presence of God in Word and Sacrament and to give praise to God who loves us unconditionally.

GATHER

PRELUDE "Wake Awake"

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In These Darkest Days

In these darkest days Bring your light to our lives Like the moon on the snow In your hope we will glow

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We confess together:

Jesus, who comes as new birth, we have prepared for you with comfortable traditions and humble requests.

We have memorialized your birth as if it was a past act and not the bold declaration of a living God.

We have rested in the safer hope of your work, abandoning our call as co-creators of your kingdom, harming your children with our ill-informed action and comfort-catering inaction.

All this we humbly confess.

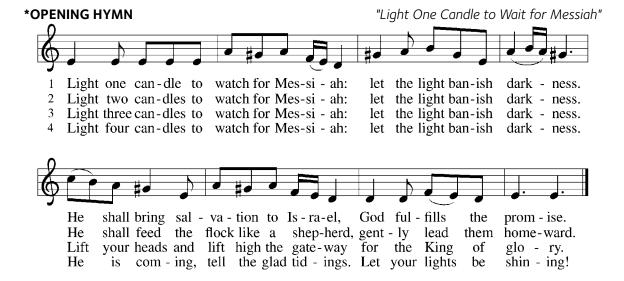
Help us remember in this season of anticipation that we prepare not only for you, but because of you.

Challenge us to examine our intentions, and to hold sacred both the act of preparing, and the transforming through justice and love of the one who comes.

Silence for reflection.

May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.



*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and quide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Amen.

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the reconciling peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. As darkness falls, may we watch for your light. Keep us awake and alert to your coming and strengthen us to the end, that we may be 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

*FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

The first reading is from Isaiah, chapter 64. Listen for the word of God.

Our ears and hearts are open.

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 God.

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 Holy Parent; 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.

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us, **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Send Us a Sign" (Mertes/Fund)

Send us a sign, your people look up, your people look east. Send us your Word, your people need peace. Alleluia, Alleuia -a-a. Send us a sign. (sing twice)



THE GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

The holy Gospel according to Mark, chapter 13.

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:] 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.

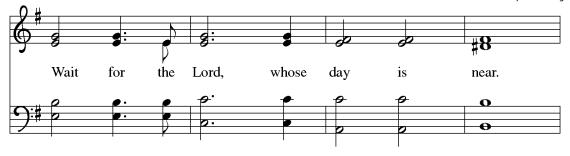
KID'S MESSAGE

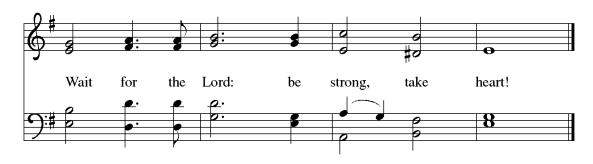
Kyle McBride and Pastor Gretchen Mertes

SERMON Pastor Kathy Hawks

SONG OF THE DAY

"Wait for the Lord" (chant repeatedly)







*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After the words, "For what else do the people of God pray?", the Assisting Minister will offer the prayers that the congregation has brought forward.

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, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. We pray especially for the work of those who serve them: the Ballard Food Bank, Compass Housing Alliance, and the Urban League, among many others. 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. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For what else do the people of God pray?

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.

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.**

*PEACE

May the everlasting peace of the Lord be with you always, and everywhere.

And also with you.

You may greet others and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

OFFERING SPECIAL MUSIC

" Awake O Sleeper" - Gentry Morris

With your eyes closed and your mind on hold you are walking blind through the night But evil's lurking and danger's searching, and only biding its time Well cause in your slumber well, you might stumble and disappear from sight

Chorus

Awake O sleeper, awake o sleeper, awake o sleeper it's time Let your eyes fly open and leave this broken, yeah leave this broken world behind And step into the light. Light...

You been filling holes with your fool's gold, but you're never satisfied Cause there's a feeling that there's something that'll give you peace of mind Well your foolish hoping and fingers groping for what this world can provide

(Chorus)

There's a burning question inside your chest and you're dying to find out If the rumors are really true or what's it all about But your first impressions and second guessing have filled your heart with doubt

(Chorus)

OFFERING PRAYER

We return these gifts to you, O Lord, out of the bounty you have given us. May our resources – our time, our talent, our power, our privilege, and our money, be used for the good of all, as a sign of hope for the future you have promised. **Amen.**

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

We praise you, O God, for your creating, liberating, and life-giving Word! You set the foundations of the world, you lead your people into freedom, you lift up the lowly, and fill the hungry with good things. Our hearts sing of your mercy and might! Send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that our lives may witness to your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one in the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER AND ANNOINTING FOR HEALING



READINGS

A reading from Psalms.

Psalm 103:2-4

Blessed be God, who forgives our sin, heals every illness, saves us from death, enfolds us with tender care, and crowns us with steadfast love.

Amen.

A reading from the Letter of James.

James 5:13-15a

Are any among you suffering? They should pray.

Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them,

Anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

The prayer of faith will make the sick one whole, And the Lord will raise them up.

BLESSING OF THE OIL

God, Word made flesh, you know the depth of human suffering. Bless this oil that all who are anointed with it may be healed, strengthened, and reconciled by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INVITATION

Jesus says, 'Come to me all you who are troubled and I will give you rest.'

So come, you who are burdened by regrets and anxieties, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and by doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions and injustices of our world.

Come, for Jesus invites us.

We now enter a time of healing prayer. We are invited individually to join one of the pastors in a breakout room. Please indicate your desire to pray to Katlin, our welcome minister, and she will direct you to a breakout room.

BLESSING

May the Holy One increase our hope, strengthen our faith, deepen our love,+ and grant us peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!



Building Aligned Vision: Keep Informed!

- Visit Our Vision-Aligned Building webpage (https://ourredeemers.net/about/build-thevision/)
- Look for Monthly video updates in your email or on <u>Facebook</u>, our <u>YouTube channel</u> and on the website
- Find high level budget and cash flow updates on the <u>Vision-Aligned website page</u>.



GOD'S CALL OUR VISION

• Read each <u>"The Visitor"</u> monthly newsletter that will include all reports, pictures and information needed to stay informed.

We Pray for...

Ron Adams, Ken Carter, Kathleen Dahlgren, Anita Dickinson, Dale Fladeboe, Sam Hartley, Colin Johnson, Stephen Jones, Jean Kippen, Anita Lewis, John McDermott, Ted Meyer, Barbara Olsen, Linda Ravenhorst, Jimmy Scates, Jennifer Seyler, Candace Todd-Robbins, Karen Tomlinson, Eileen Weller, Grace Wetter, Boyd Wetter; those staying in long term care facilities who face long stretches of loneliness and time without visits: educators: doctors. nurses, and other health professionals; all affected by COVID-19 economically, physically, and emotionally; mental health of members and staff; immigrant families remaining separated; Road2Housing guests; loved ones with cancer.

Grieving the Loss of...

Charles Glaser; Ed Johnson; Wally Loucks; Samantha McAuley; Ron Pisk; Trent Zingleman

To include someone in the prayers for 4 weeks, please fill out a Prayer Request card or email the church.

IN OUR SERVICE TODAY

Preaching: Pastor Kathy Hawks
Presiding: Pastor Gretchen Mertes
Assisting Minister: Barb Dougherty
Lector: Jennifer Seyler
Musicians: Karen Lee, Gretchen Mertes

Music reprinted under CCLI License #2540500,
OneLicense.net #A-706853, and LicenSingOnline #L10114
Liturgy reprinted under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies
License #SAS000631

Our Staff

Kathy Hawks Pastor (x101)

kathyh@ourredeemers.net

Gretchen Mertes Pastor (x108)

pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net

Karie Stearns

Parish Administrator administrator@ourredeemers.net

Karen Lee

Traditional Worship / Music Director karen@ourredeemers.net

Debbie Lematta

Communications Coordinator communications@ourredeemers.net

Katlin Dickinson-Laurence

Office Coordinator office@ourredeemers.net

Amy Hammett Katlin Dickinson-Laurence

Welcome Ministers welcome@ourredeemers.net

Social Justice Coordinator (x103)

outreach@ourredeemers.net

Hannah Wetter

Nursery Caregiver

www.ourredeemers.net

Our physical offices are closed. The fastest way to reach our staff is by email.

Email: office@ourredeemers.net

You can also leave a message at: 206.783.7900

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more details, check the website or current newsletter.



worship Sundays 11am

Consecration Sunday

On Consecration Sunday we asked just one bold question: What percentage of my income, God, are you calling me to give in the coming year?

If you haven't completed your pledge for 2021, please return the hard copy of the pledge card you received or right now you can fill out the online estimate of giving. Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Eve Orchestra 2020 Style!

With the help of our guest trumpet player and video editor, Carey Rayburn, we're excited to create some virtual Christmas Carol Collaborations! If you'd like to participate, please contact Karen Lee as soon as possible at: karen@ourredeemers.net. Please include what instrument you'd like to play, and Karen will provide step-by-step directions for your part in these festive and meaningful videos.



community

Luciafest

Sunday, December 13

This year we will be remember Luciafests of the past as we dream of Luciafests of the future. Please submit photos and videos of past Luciafests BY DECEMBER 3 to Pastor Gretchen via this link. We will also be putting together some music and memories. Thank you for helping us to celebrate this important part of our congregation tradition this year!



social justice

Road 2 Housing Needs Funds for Interim Amenities

We—as Church—are committed to maintaining our ministry to the homeless during renovation construction! Our shower, laundry, kitchen, and electric facilities continue to be open for our Road to Housing guests on the weekends, but during construction, that isn't possible during the week. So, our Road2Housing program needs \$2,400 to provide a portable toilet and hand washing station (through August), and \$700 to provide a shed for the refrigerator and microwave, on weekdays. Please help our community continue this ministry. Here is the link for giving. Reference "R2H Shed". Thank you for whatever you can do. Questions? Email administrator@ourredeemers.net.



faith formation

Celebrate and Consider

A Daily Devotional for the Season of Advent for Families or Individuals

Stephanie Running offers us the gift of daily time for lighting candle(s), a Bible lesson to read, a paragraph of ideas for consideration about what was read, an activity, and a closing prayer. Look for your Devotion in your email each day. If you would like a hard copy of the full devotional, please let us know: office@ourredeemers.net.

Sunday Adult Forums in Advent

Sundays, 9:30am Zoom Link Passcode "Adult"

Matthew's Adult (R-Rated) Infancy Narrative

Dec. 6: Immanuel: God in the Chicken Coop with the Chickens (Matt. 1:18–25)

Dec. 13: Ástrologers Redeemed and Biblical Scholars Condemned (Matt. 2:1–12)

Dec. 20: Blue Christmas Indeed: Can Anything Good Come Out of the Killing Fields (Matt. 2:13–23)

Christmas Pageant

During Worship, December 20, 11am

Do not be afraid - we are having our Christmas Pageant! Please contact <u>Mandy Neill</u> or <u>Pastor Gretchen</u> if you would like to be in our Zoom Christmas Pageant on December 20th. We need people of all ages and abilities, both on screen and behind the scenes. Thank you for helping to make one of our favorite Advent traditions come to life this year!

Wednesday Bible Study - Exile

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM <u>via Zoom</u> Passcode: bible

Think of a time when you chose to or were forced to go to another place that changed the direction of your life, maybe forever. That is what we are thinking about for the exiles of Jerusalem/Judea in the late 500's BCE. Their exile changed everything for them, so much so that its historical ramifications may be linked even to what your faith is like today. You are most welcome to take a look in our Zoom space to see if your interest is piqued. For more information contact Carolyn Swanson: cdkswan@comcast.net.

Giving Tree 2020

There are three ways to be involved in the Giving Tree this year. Two are on your own, and one is through our Road 2 Housing program. They are all programs we have supported in the past, and that very much need your support this year.

LINK TO ALL THE WAYS TO GIVE



This Week at Our Redeemer's

Today, November 29 - SERVICE OF PRAYER & HEALING 9:30am - Adult Educational Forum | via Zoom 9:30am - Sprouts Class (3-5 years) | via Zoom 11am - Online Worship Service | via Zoom/Facebook

Tuesday, December 1 10am-1pm - Pastor Gretchen Virtual Office Hours

Wednesday, December 2 - Office Closed 10:30am - Wednesday Bible Study: "Exile" | via Zoom 7pm - Adult & Youth Choir

Thursday, December 3

9am-12pm - Pastor Kathy Virtual Office Hours
6th & 7th Hangout @ Jancolas

Saturday, December 5 10am - Christmas Pageant Zoom Rehearsal I <u>via Zoom</u>

Sunday, December 6
9:30am - Adult Educational Forum | via Zoom
9:30am - Sprouts Class (3-5 years) | via Zoom
11am - Online Worship Service | via Zoom/Facebook



^{*} Email office@ourredeemers.net for Zoom meeting information.