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Advent 1

1 Samuel 3:1-11, 19-20

Isaiah 62:1-3, 10-12

Luke 1:26-45

November 29, 2020

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Returning again to the waters of our baptism, we begin in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious and merciful God,

**We confess to you the truth of our broken lives.**

**We have not trusted your promises or walked in your ways. We have hoarded and squandered the gifts of your creation. We have failed to welcome the stranger and the outcast, and to make room at the table for the homeless and the hungry. We have neither worked to release the oppressed nor admitted our own captivities. Forgive our sin, heal our lives, and set us free that we might live with your whole creation in the justice and joy of your promised future.**

God, who is merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, hears the cries of all who plead for mercy and, in these last days, has sent Christ Jesus to announce the good news of forgiveness and release to all who are bound by guilt or broken by shame, that they might praise God and serve the world with glad and generous hearts. For freedom Christ has set you free.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*"Beneath the Tree of Life"*

### GREETING & KYRIE

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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

### PRAYER FOR THE ADVENT WREATH

### SPECIAL MUSIC

## WORD

A reading from First Samuel.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### SUNG RESPONSE

*"Wait for the Lord"*

A reading from Isaiah.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## SUNG RESPONSE

*“Wait for the Lord”*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*“Tree of Life”*

The gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Signs and Wonders”*

## NICENE CREED

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The response is:*

Lord, we are hopeful.

**Hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

## OFFERING

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## SENDING

### SENDING HYMN

*“Here I Am Lord”*

### BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to  
rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us. **Thanks be to God.**

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### *Serving in Worship*

Pr. Jenn Collins

Pr. Justin Smoot

Joel Freiberg - Pianist

Jenna Diedrich & Kerry Fehrman - Vocalists

Michelle Tlusty - Layreader

### *Technical Support*

Ryan Josiger & Troy Radtke

Bob Wiederhoeft

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### **Altar Flowers**

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Barb Breese in honor of her birthday.

### ***Thank you for your offerings and continued support!***

Now more than ever we are grateful for a gift of any amount you might share to further support the ministry of Saint Andrew. What you share makes a difference as we seek to be "open to all". For the many ways you give, thank you.



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715.842.3333

Facebook.com/salcwausau

150202 County Road NN Wausau WI 54401

NOVEMBER 29, 2020  
FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*Stay awake, for God is coming with power.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 13:24-37</b>	<b>The day and hour unknown</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 64:1-9</b>	<b>A communal prayer for help</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</b>	<b>God is faithful</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Revelation 22:12-21</b>	<b>Jesus is coming soon</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Micah 4:1-5</b>	<b>Peace and prosperity</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</b>	<b>Children of light</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19</b>	<b>Prayer for Israel's restoration</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:1-8</b>	<b>The beginning of the good news</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Mark 13:26 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Deliver us from harm, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine on us, that we may be saved through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 80:3, 7, and 19)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food; may it strengthen us that we may await your coming with power and glory through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May you be blessed with hope and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.



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NOVEMBER 29, 2020

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Awake, Awake, and Greet  
the Morn*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you had a challenging or scary experience?
- What are some dangerous or alarming situations we face in our world today?
- Sometimes it seems easier to deny the dangers we face and pretend they are not really a problem. How does faith in Jesus give us hope and help us to face scary times?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Mark 13:24-37.

Advent begins with an awareness of the frailty of life. We may come up with short-term fixes like finding shelter, warmth, and food. There is always the challenge of the unforeseen storm that can flood our lives with devastation, when the whole world seems to be falling down around us (vv. 24-25). No generation escapes these trials and sufferings (vv. 29-30). It happened to the people who returned from Babylonian captivity (Isaiah 64); it happened to the first Christians as noted by Mark in chapter 13; and, it happens all around the world today. What we need is the God who promises to show up and be the difference-maker. This Advent we are reminded to be alert to this God who shows up in Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus we have hope because we have the one in whom the truth of his words will never pass away, never end, never fail (v. 31). So live life with gusto, with courage, with hope, and stay awake, keep alert, don't give up (vv. 33, 35, and 37). How does public worship, reading the Bible and prayer help you stay awake to Jesus' coming into our lives?

*Pray:* **Almighty and living God, give us hope and confidence to await your coming into our lives with faith in your healing and renewing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE



Advent is a time to recall the basic needs of life: a loving and gracious God and justice and mercy that all may have enough to live. In what ways can you "stay awake" this Advent season by caring for the needs of others and providing needed resources for the homeless?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The church year begins on the first Sunday in Advent. This coming year, the Gospel readings will be from Mark. To launch the new church year, gather together all the Bibles in your home. If you have an Advent wreath, place the Bibles near the wreath. As you light the first candle, the candle of hope, use this prayer of blessing: **Almighty God, we thank for you for the Bible, and especially for the good news about Jesus our Savior. Give us hope as we read, listen to, and think about what the Bible says to us in this new church year. Make us into people who are strong in our faith and full of love. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)