**GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 28, 2021 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel and on Facebook Live**

Here at Gethsemane we practice open communion, meaning all who believe in the power of Jesus Christ to bring salvation are welcome to join in. In our Lutheran understanding, both sacraments—Baptism and Holy Communion—are best conducted among the gathered assembly. If you are present on this live-stream, you are present in our assembly. The body of Christ is not limited by place or time, so even if you are on the replay of this service, you are part of our assembly. Any bread and any wine or grape juice will do. If you are celebrating as a family, please feel free to break the bread into the right number of portions or have a separate piece for each person. Same with the cup. You may have one cup for all or each member of the household use a separate cup. We believe the Christ is fully present in both Word and Sacrament, in both the bread and the wine/grape juice so if you only have one or the other, or even if you refrain from communion, you are not missing out. Remember it is not the type of bread or wine, nor is it the quantity, but it is your faith in taking the elements that is the window for the Holy Spirit to enter your life.

**Gospel Sunday**

**Welcome**

**Prayer for Illumination**

P: God of the stars and God of our hearts— our days will pass but your words will last.  
**C: The earth might fade but your words will last.**

P: Our memories might blur but your words will last.

**C: The grass will wither but your words will last.**

P: The sky could go dark and your words would last.

**C: So as we listen today, help us to hold onto what will last.  
Help us hold onto you. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

**“My Lord, What a Morning” ELW #438**

*Refrain*

My Lord, what a morning;

my Lord, what a morning;

oh, my Lord, what a morning,

when the stars begin to fall.

1 You will hear the trumpet sound,

to wake the nations underground,

looking to my God's right hand,

when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

2 You will hear the sinner cry,

to wake the nations underground,

looking to my God's right hand,

when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

3 You will hear the Christian shout,

to wake the nations underground,

looking to my God's right hand,

when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

**“It’s Me, O Lord (Standing in the Need of Prayer) TFF  #240,** vss 1, 3,4

*Refrain*

It’s me, it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer;

it’s me, it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer.

1. Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord,

standin’ in the need of prayer; not my brother, not my sister,

but it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer. *Refrain*

1. Not my father, not my mother, but it’s me, O Lord,

standin’ in the need of prayer; not my father, not my mother,

but it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer. *Refrain*

1. Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it’s me, O Lord,

standin’ in the need of prayer; not the stranger, not my neighbor,

but it’s me, O Lord, standin’ in the need of prayer. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

Music: Standing in the Need, African American spiritual

**Candle Lighting Liturgy**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

**All: Gracious God,  
We find ourselves with two options every day—  
to stay homesick for the world we used to know, allowing cynicism to win, or be homesick for the home you have designed for us.**

**Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?**

**Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it’s impossible?  
Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.  
Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a vision of a new home in a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won’t let go.  
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited to be God’s home. So declare and trust this good news:

**All: There is room for me in God’s house, and nothing can separate me from that love. I am claimed. I am forgiven. I am welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**All: Trusting in the power of the presence of God, which gives us a renewed confidence of being the gospel we believe in, we worship together.**

**“Day by Day” ELW #790**

1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,

bringing comfort to my anxious soul.

Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me

draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.

Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,

brings to naught the burdens of my quest;

Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,

where at last I'll find eternal rest.

2 Day by day, I know you will provide me

strength to serve and wisdom to obey;

I will seek your loving will to guide me

o'er the paths I struggle day by day.

I will fear no evil of the morrow,

I will trust in your enduring grace.

Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow

till in glory I behold your face.

3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me

when my burdens grow too great to bear;

oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.

Day by day, no matter what betide me,

you will hold me ever in your hand.

Savior, with your presence here to guide me,

I will reach at last the promised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005

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**Theme Prayer**

**“Come by Here” TFF 43**, vss 1, 2, 4, 5

1. Come by here, my Lord, come by here; come by here, my Lord, come by here;

come by here, my Lord, come by here; O Lord, come by here.

1. Someone’s crying, Lord, come by here; someone’s crying Lord, come by here;

someone’s crying, Lord, come by here; O Lord, come by here.

4 Someone’s praying, Lord, come by here; someone’s praying, Lord, come by

here;

someone’s praying, Lord, come by here; O Lord, come by here.

1. Someone needs you, Lord, come by here; someone needs you, Lord, come by here;

someone needs you, Lord, come by here; O Lord, come by here.

Text: Traditional

Music: Kum Ba Yah, traditional

**Children’s Message**

**Message**

**“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW #779** vss 1, 2, 4

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

and grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear

the hour I first believed!

4 The Lord has promised good to me;

his word my hope secures;

he will my shield and portion be

as long as life endures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

**Prayer of the People**

**Offering our Gifts for the Mission and Ministry of God’s Church**

The Word has been spoken. Now, may it stir in our hearts.

**Communion**

One: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the chaos and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

(*Please join with me as we say the Words of Institution*)

**All: In the night in which he was betrayed,**

**our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;**

**broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:**

**Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.**

**Do this for the remembrance of me.**

**Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,**

**and gave it for all to drink, saying:**

**This cup is the new covenant in my blood,**

**shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.**

**Do this for the remembrance of me.**

One: We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

One: With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen**.

One: And now, join me in praying as our Lord Jesus taught us…

**All: 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.**

**Distribution**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Community Announcements**

**Blessing**

**“Ten Thousand Reasons” ACS #1097**

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

Refrain

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul;  
worship his holy name. Sing like never before,  
O my soul; I’ll worship your Holy name

1 The sun comes up, it’s a new day dawning;  
it’s time to sing your song again. Whatever may

pass, and whatever lies before me, let me be

singing when the evening comes.

2 You’re rich in love, and you’re slow to anger. Your

name is great, and your heart is kind. For all your

goodness, I will keep on singing - ten thousand

reasons for my heart to find.

3. And on that day when my strength is failing, the  
end draws near, and my time has come; still, my

soul will sing your praise unending - ten thousand

years and then forevermore!

**Send Off**

One: Go in peace

**All: To explore the Faith**

One: Live in peace

**All: To express our faith to others**

One: Share the peace

**All: By inviting others to join us on this journey toward home.**

**All: THANKS BE TO GOD. CHRIST IS NEAR!**

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### Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

*God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.*

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### First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

### Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*