THE LORD'S DAY 11:00 A.M. DECEMBER 3, 2023 THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Music Prelude/Ringing of the Bell/Welcome

INVOCATION Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon: v. 7

Reader In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

- R ¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
- C You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- R ²Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!
- C ³Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- R ⁴O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- C ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- R ⁶You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.
- C ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries,

to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear.

no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;

in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf.

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls upon your name,

who rouses himself to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Reader: This is the Word of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG "He Who Began a Good Work in You"

He who began a good work in you

He who began a good work in you

will be faithful to complete it,

He'll be faithful to complete it;

He who started the work will

be faithful to complete it in you.

Repeat

Philippians 1:6 ⊚1987 Birdwing Music Admin by Sparrow Corp. CCLI #187269 GMP 180

Stand

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter. **C Glory to You, O Lord.**

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then 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.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- P The coming of a perfect Lord among an imperfect people is not a comforting thought. The prophet Malachi said, "But who can endure the day of His coming? Who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver." *Malachi 3:2,3* Let us acknowledge our sins, repent, and receive forgiveness in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C "The righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement." Romans 3:22-25a
- O Lord, I confess my sins and my failures I will not hide. Forgive me by Your grace. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

P "Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." *Hebrews 4:14–16*

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

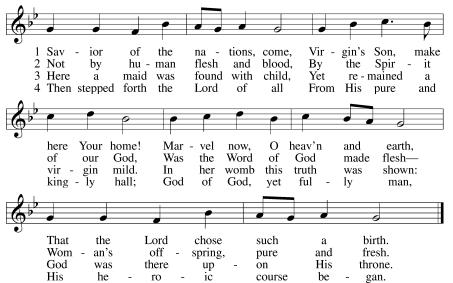
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and

sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Sit)
THE CHILDREN'S TALK

THE HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 332 Savior of the Nations, Come



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SERMON "THE KING SHALL COME"

OFFERING

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (stand)

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

PEOPLE: AMEN

THE CLOSING SONG "Firm Foundation"

Chorus:

Jesus, You're my firm foundation, I know I can stand secure. Jesus, You're my firm foundation, I put my hope in Your holy Word, I put my hope in Your holy Word.

(Men) I have a living hope, (Women) I have a living hope, (Men) I have a future, (Women) I have a future, (Men) God has a plan for me, (Women) God has a plan for me, (Men) of this I'm sure, (Women) of this I'm sure. Chorus.

(Men) Your Word is faithful, (Women) Your Word is faithful, (Men) Mighty in power; (Women) Mighty in power; (Men) God will deliver me, (Women) God will deliver me, (Men) of this I'm sure, (Women) of this I'm sure. Chorus.

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