A painting of a man and a child looking at a starry night sky. The man is in the foreground, wearing a red shirt, with his right arm raised pointing towards a bright star. A child in an orange shirt stands behind him, also looking up. The sky is a vibrant mix of blue, green, and purple, filled with numerous stars. The overall style is expressive and textured, resembling a painting.

THERE WILL
BE SIGNS
IN THE **SUN,**
THE **MOON,**
AND THE **STARS**

LUKE 21:25



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Philip J. Supeck, *Vicar*
Mr. Roger L. Kurtz, *Director of Music*
<https://www.jerusaluth.org>

“As followers of Jesus, we serve our neighbors locally and globally.”

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024
10:30 a.m.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Chorale Prelude on “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” – Johann Sebastian Bach*

*Throughout this bulletin, the text in **bold** type is said by the congregation.*

Please be seated or kneel if able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Silence for reflection and prayer

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

The congregation stands to sing the hymn.

HYMN #257: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
(stanza 1)

VENI, EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Speaker 1: Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

Speaker 2: Psalm 80:2b-3 says, “Stir up your might, and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.”

The first candle is lit.

Speaker 3: Light one candle; see it glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How one candle shows the way
Making our darkness as bright as God’s Day.

Speaker 4: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Let us pray: Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas. In the Savior’s name we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN #257: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
(stanza 2)

VENI, EMMANUEL

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.**

HYMN #152: *Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36 (*printed on back cover*)
Prior to the reading of the Holy Gospel, the following is said:
The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
At the conclusion of the Gospel, the following is said:
The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Vicar Philip Supeck

The congregation stands to sing the hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY #436: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* WACHET AUF

NICENE CREED

p. 104 (*ELW Setting 1*)

Please kneel or be seated.

PRAYERS

Each petition concludes: Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers. The congregation responds: **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

At the conclusion of the Peace, the congregation is seated.

ANTHEM: *Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God* – George Frideric Handel

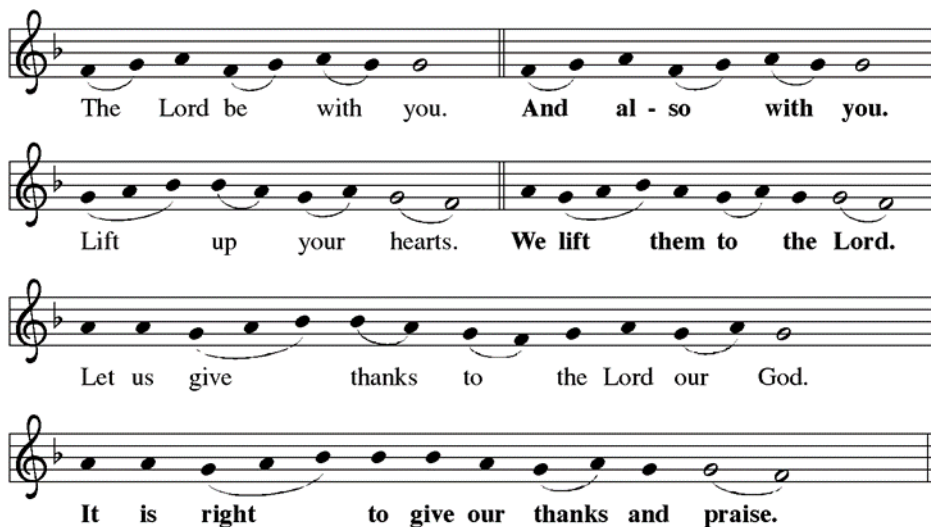
Please stand if you are able.

OFFERTORY HYMN #884: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Assisting Minister: Let us pray: **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HYMN #190: *Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)*

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

p. 110 (*ELW Setting 1*)

LORD'S PRAYER

Gather into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us to pray...

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.

FRACTION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

HYMN #199: *Jesus, Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)*

COMMUNION

The congregation is seated. The ushers will dismiss the assembly for communion. Lutherans teach that Christ is truly present with, in, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. We commune by pouring chalice. Please take an empty cup before going to the rail. (The pre-filled cups contain grape juice.)

Those who wish to receive only a blessing at the rail should indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest. As the ministers distribute the elements, they say these words: The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN #245: *Creator of the Stars of Night* CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Please stand if you are able.

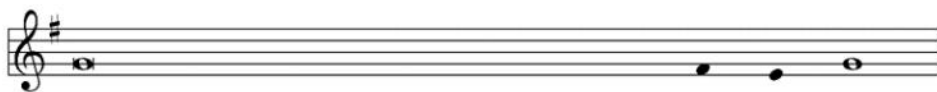
POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray: We give you thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy strengthen us through this gift of faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING



☩ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.



HYMN #246: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* MERTON

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Chorale Prelude on “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”* – Anton Wilhelm Leupold

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today to the Glory of God.

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

Vicar	Philip J. Supeck
Organist	Roger Kurtz
Asst. Minister/Lector	Jill Clubb
Altar Guild	Emma Miller
Acolyte	Joyce Burkholder
Ushers	Claude Grube, Andy Anderson, Charles Sweigart Jr.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalms 25:1-10**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Next Sunday's Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

Cover: Night landscape, staring at Milky Way galaxy (acrylic) by Valery Rybakou. Copyright © 2024 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

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