



Keep awake

MARK 13:37





Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Reverend Viking Dietrich, *Interim Pastor*

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 3, 2023

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Improvisation on “Conditor Alme Siderum”* – George Oldroyd

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All who are able, please stand and face the baptismal font at the front of the church. Throughout this worship folder, the text in **bold type** is said by the congregation.*

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our 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.**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The congregation remains standing. A blessing is read and the candle(s) on the Advent Wreath is lit. Before the blessing, the congregation sings (stanza 1)

HYMN #240 – *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* TIF IN VELDELE

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

(Pause for lighting)

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

After the blessing, the congregation sings again (stanza 1)

HYMN #240 – *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* TIF IN VELDELE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9 *(printed on the back cover)*

The congregation is seated. At the conclusion of the reading, the following is said:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 *The psalm is spoken responsively.*

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹ like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹ on the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹ and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and ¹ come to help us.

³**Restore ¹ us, O God;**
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.

⁴O LORD ¹ God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your ¹ people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the ¹ bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of ¹ tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
⁷**Restore us, O | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (*printed on the back cover*)

At the conclusion of the reading, the following is said:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #175: GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation stands to sing the Gospel Acclamation

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37 (*printed on the back cover*)

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the following is said:

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

SERMON *The congregation is seated.*

HYMN OF THE DAY #246: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding! MERTON

NICENE CREED

p. 104 (*ELW Setting 1*)

PRAYERS

Each petition concludes: Merciful God, **receive 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: *In Night's Dim Shadows Lying* – George Guest

OFFERTORY HYMN #490: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (stanzas 1 & 2) PICARDY

As the offering is presented the congregation stands to sing the offertory.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

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 also 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.**

The presiding minister continues with the proper Preface. At the conclusion of the Preface, the congregation sings the Sanctus.

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

p. 110 (*ELW Setting 1*)

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.

FRACTION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

COMMUNION

*The congregation is seated. 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 altar 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. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Each person may respond: **Amen.***

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

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, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #260: *The King Shall Come* CONSOLATION

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE: *Herr Christ, der einge Gottes-Sohn* – Johann Sebastian Bach

Congregational Meeting today in the sanctuary after the worship service to approve 2024 Budget and to elect council members.

Poinsettia order forms available for Christmas Eve. Cost is \$7.00 each for Red and White. Please see ushers for order forms. Money and orders due by Sunday, December 10.

Christmas Decorating in sanctuary at 9am, and Christmas Caroling to local homebound members on Sunday, December 10. There will be a pizza lunch to follow the worship service.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Christine and Andy Anderson, Barry Becker, Nate and Crystal, Kim Cravens, Spencer Ehrhart, Weston Hertzler, Hunter Leisey, Sharon Levering, Lillian Logeman, Joy McCurty and Pam Cramer, Byron Miller, Brianna Bergmann, Judy Perry, Norma Rhoads, Lisa Riley, Greg Summers, Toby Sweigart, Mary Valimont, Neal Vital, Tracey Whitney, and Doris Witwer.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today to the glory of God.

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

Interim Pastor

Organist

Asst. Minister/Lector

Altar Guild

Acolyte

Ushers

Zoom Monitor

Reverend Viking Dietrich

Roger Kurtz

Jill Clubb

Emma Miller

Joyce Burkholder

Claude Grube, Andy Anderson, Charles Sweigart Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Reminder Dates

Fellowship and Adult Forum at 9:00 am with Worship Service at 10:30 am on Sunday, December 3.
Shared Advent Devotion at BULC on Thursday, December 7.

Choir Rehearsal on Thursday, December 7 at 7pm.

Lunch Social with BULC at the White Swan at Noon on Dec. 17. Sign up by Sunday, December 10.

The ushers, Claude, Andy, and Charles will be collecting money today, December 10th, and December 17th for the staff Christmas Gifts.

Donations of paper tissues needed (any brand or size).

MIDWEEK ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Please join us on Thursdays 12/7, 12/14 and 12/21 for Matins, fellowship with soup and Bible study to prepare for Jesus' birth. Time: 11:30am. Place: BULC.

Sign up sheets will be posted in the Narthex, but please come even if you forget to sign up!

ADVENT TREE

An Advent Tree will be placed in the Narthex during the month of December. Decorating the tree will be Good Gifts "ornaments" to benefit the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Simply choose an ornament with the gift you wish to give (yes- you can take the ornament). Checks should be made out to JELC and given to Beth Smith- please put the name of the animal or service in the subject line of the check. There are also booklets with more information on the Good Gifts program- please feel free to take one. Thank you for your support!

COMMUNITY CHEST CHRISTMAS BASKETS: The Christmas season is approaching! Jerusalem will again be supporting those in need in our community through the Lititz-Warwick Community Chest Christmas Basket Program. The Community Chest has experienced an increased demand this year, so we will be sponsoring six families. A collection will take place today to purchase grocery store gift cards so these families can purchase food for their holiday meals. Thank you for your support of this important ministry!

MUSIC NOTES:

During the four Sundays of Advent, we will be singing "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (*ELW* #240) after the candles on the Advent wreath are lit. Wayne Wold (b. 1954) wrote the text in 1984. Four scripture passages served as an inspiration to him: Psalm 23:2, Psalm 24:7-10, Isaiah 40:1-11, and Matthew 25:1-13. Wold set his text to a Yiddish folk tune. The tune name ("Tif in Veldele") meaning "deep in the forest" comes from the opening line of a Yiddish love song set to this melody. Director of Music for First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, Maryland, Wold also serves as Adjunct Associate Professor of Music (organ) at Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. He retired in August 2020 after 30 years at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, where he held the positions of Professor, College Organist, and Chair of the Music Department.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

O 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 him.
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 Father;
 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.

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] "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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

Cover: Silhouette under lamp, Philippines. Copyright © Edward Lim/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.
 Tracks 1 and 2
 Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A. ELCA-R