

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today, as we begin a new church year on this First Sunday of Advent, our attention is turned in hopeful anticipation of our Savior's coming even when our days are also filled with foreboding. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday** or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. If you have an Advent wreath at home, you may wish to light one candle. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O 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 you.
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 as a father to us;
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.

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

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201129/playlist>

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
⁴O LORD| God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
⁷Restore 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.
¹⁹Restore us, O LORD| God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

³Grace 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 Christ, 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 whom you were called into the communion of the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁴“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 the Son-of-Man 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 someone going on a journey, who leaving home and putting the slaves in charge of their own work, commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the lord of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else coming suddenly, the lord may find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

Having read these readings, think of this:

Isaiah gives us words for the longings that are present in all the world: “O God, would that you would tear open the heavens and come down!” We are rightly afraid that our sins have delayed and hidden God’s coming to us with healing and hope. We know ourselves to be held by our iniquity rather than held by God the merciful potter. But in Mark’s Gospel, Jesus joins us in not knowing when the day of healing will be. And in the very next chapter, the Gospel begins to tell of his death. We are to keep awake, like a doorkeeper watching for the return of the homeowner. Then the amazing thing happens. God does come: at evening in the supper when Jesus gives himself away and prays in the garden; at midnight when he is arrested; at cockcrow when he is denied; at dawn when he begins to be taken to the cross; and yet again at dawn when the women at the door of the tomb discover that he is risen. In Mark’s Gospel the heavens have been torn open and God has come among all the world’s suffering. Christ is with us still. Forgiven and strengthened by that word, as Paul says, we may wait for his full revealing. We are called to be doorkeepers still watching on behalf of all the needy world and yet bearing witness to God’s present mercy.

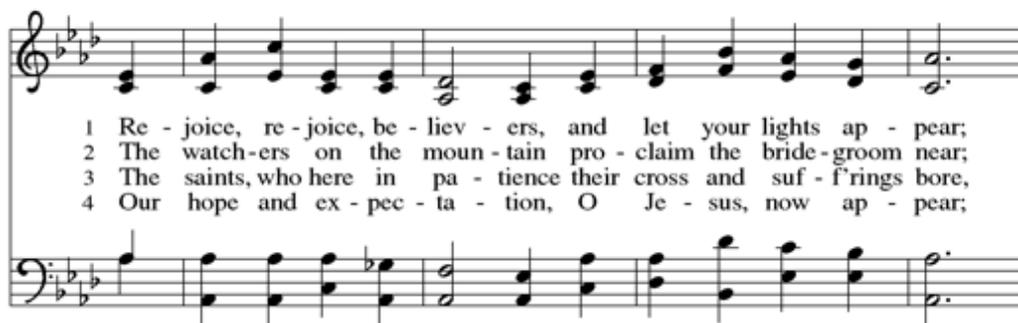
At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman’s First Sunday of Advent Sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at:

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201129/playlist>

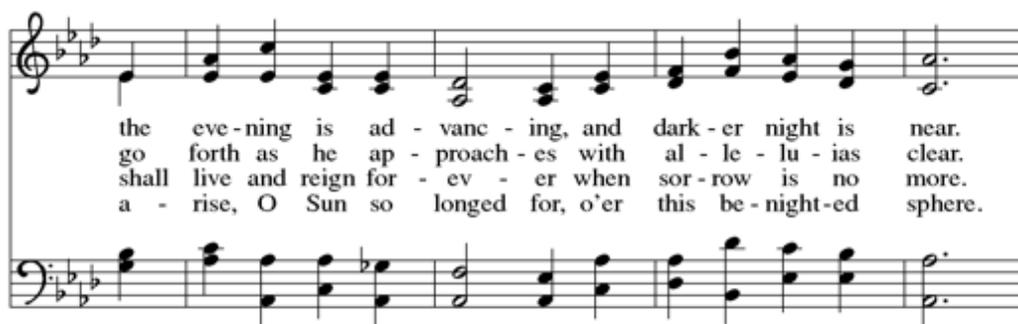
You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201129/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #244

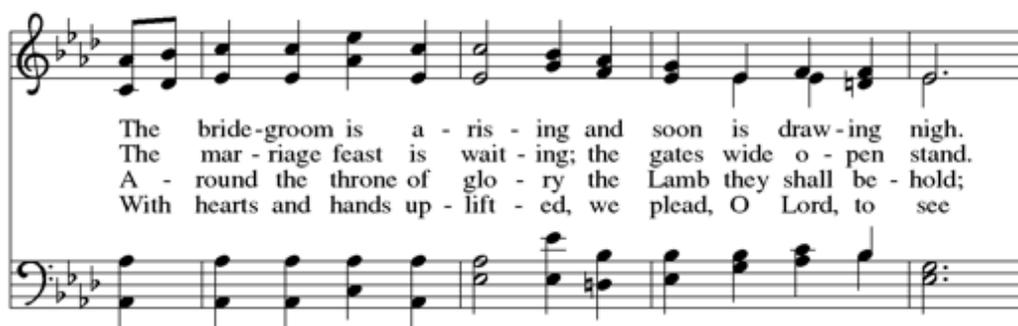
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



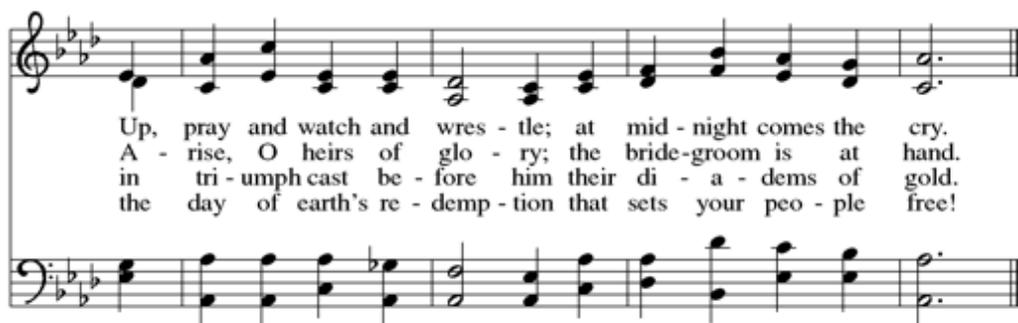
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Then pray these intercessions:

On this first Sunday of the church year, let us pray that God come quickly to this weary world; we respond to each petition with words from today's psalm, "Come to help us."

A brief silence.

Immortal, invisible God only wise, we pray for the church, both our congregation and assemblies around the globe. Give us your life. Show us your presence. Grant us your wisdom. Shepherd for another year of grace our pastor and all who minister in the church.

A brief silence.

Stir up your strength, O God.

Come to help us.

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, protect the animals, whether wild or farmed or tame. Restore devastated habitats and polluted waters. Calm the storms that devastate the coasts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it.

A brief silence.

Stir up your strength, O God.

Come to help us.

Mighty Fortress, protect all people who are poor or oppressed. Grant that the leaders of nations respond with justice and relief to those who suffer. We pray especially for the people of Honduras. Bless President-elect Biden, and lead those who did not support his candidacy into a place of peace.

A brief silence.

Stir up your strength, O God.

Come to help us.

Beautiful Savior, abide with us during December. Give your beauty to our reduced holiday preparations and your grace to the many who have little to celebrate this year.

A brief silence.

Stir up your strength, O God.

Come to help us.

Mothering God, visit with your power the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are hungry. Protect children from all manner of abuse. Comfort those who live with chronic pain, anxieties, and addictions. We pray especially for Barb Jensen,

Charlotte Boeck, Don Hansen, Gretchen Zeltner, Angie, Kyler, Debbie, Kat, Jeanne, Russ, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Jamie, Frank Fuelling, Carl Lacey, Heidi Dech, Father Phillip Swingler, and Sandy Browne. Shape us to become your arms of mercy.

A brief silence.

Stir up your strength, O God.

Come to help us.

Healer of our every ill, save all peoples from the coronavirus. Sustain medical workers, and provide for hospitals and clinics. Heal the sick, accompany the dying, and comfort the mourners.

A brief silence.

Stir up your strength, O God.

Come to help us.

Rock of ages, we wait for you, we stand on you. Receive now our private prayers.

A longer period of silence.

Stir up your strength, O God.

Come to help us.

Lord of all hopefulness, we give thanks for all the faithful: for Andrew, the first disciple to follow Jesus; for those who died while waiting for justice and peace; for all who have died of Covid; and for those we name here before you: Don Oaks. At the end, bring us with them into your shining presence.

A brief silence.

Stir up your strength, O God.

Come to save us.

Eternal Father, strong to save, receive our prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus, who came, who comes, and who will come, to bring us life.

Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201129/playlist>

HYMN #435

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for fa - vored sin - ners slain;
 robbed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 those who set at nought and sold him,
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.



We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday (Andrew, Apostle) John 1:35-42. **Tuesday** Revelation 18:1-10.

Wednesday Micah 5:1-5a. **Thursday** (commemoration of Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, 1552) Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13. **Friday** (commemoration of John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, c. 749) Jeremiah 1:4-10. **Saturday** Ezekiel 36:24-28. **Second Sunday of Advent** (commemoration of Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342) Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #244 and Hymn #435.

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