

First Sunday of Advent
 December 1, 2024
 11:00 a.m.



There Is Room (Where Shepherds Lately Knelt)

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word
 I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred.
 But there is room and welcome there for me;
 but there is room and welcome there for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
 its way into my heart—unasked, unforced, unearned,
 to die, to live, and not alone for me;
 to die, to live, and not alone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008



Le Mars, Iowa

www.livingfaithlemars.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We gather for worship

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

As we light the first Advent candle we pray:
**We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
 that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.**

The light of God's presence shines.
**Kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
 that we may be light shining in the darkness.**

Enlighten us with your grace,
**that we may make room for others
 as you have made room for us.**
 Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Song #240 *"Light One Candle" vs 1*

Song #257 *"O Come, O Come" vs 1 and 2*

Prayer of Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 who opens the heavens
 and draws near to us with salvation.
Amen.

God is patient and merciful,
 desiring all to come to repentance.
 Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess our fear, greed, and self-centeredness.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Words of Assurance and Forgiveness

In the name of Christ, you are † forgiven
and God remembers your sin no more.

Let your heart be glad again,
and rejoice in your salvation. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

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.

Let us pray together:

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.**

God's Word for us

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.

¹⁴The 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."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25: 1-10

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you;**

**let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰ **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love
and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your
testimonies.**

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

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.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:35-36

The Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “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. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven 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, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be 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.”

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

Sermon

We respond to the good news

Hymn *“There is Room....”*

Nicene Creed - page 104

Prayers

Sharing the Peace

Offering

Welcome to God's Table

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.

.....let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Sending

Prayer and Blessing

Let us together 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 –
that our living faith may bring peace and hope
to all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Sending Hymn #242 *"Awake! Awake!" vs 2 and 4*

***For news, events, and our prayer list, please visit our website at
<https://www.livingfaithlemars.com> and go to the "News & Events" page.***