



# *Advent*

## *The Season of Hope and Expectation*

December 3, 2023

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*Setting 8*

*Stir up your power, and come!*

The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open.

Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

# Joys & Concerns

## Prelude

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying

Philipp Nicoli, harmonized by J. S. Bach,  
arranged for organ by Benton Price

Reformation dates: 1517 Martin Luther publishes 95 Theses

Philipp Nicolai (1556 –1608) died at age 52

J.S. Bach, 1685 – 28 July 1750

Philipp Nicolai was a German Lutheran theologian, pastor and composer. He graduated with a Doctorate Degree in Theology from the University of Wittenberg in 1594 and In 1601, he was elected chief pastor of St. Catherine's Church (*Katharinenkirche*) in Hamburg. He is remembered, however, for composing both the lyrics and music for the hymn tune, *Watchet Auf*, known to us as *Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*. This tune has passed the test of time. It inspired Bach and countless others, and it appears today in our ELW.

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

C. Amen

P. 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.*

P. Everlasting God,

C. **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. 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**

P. Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C. Amen

## Gathering Hymn

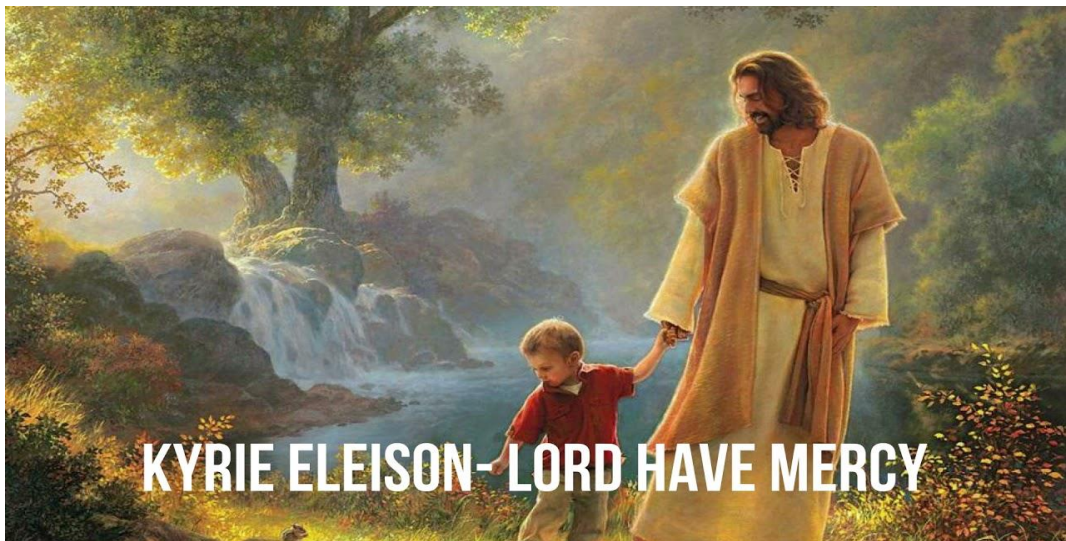
*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

ELW 242

## Greeting

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**



*Refrain*

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

- P. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**
- P. That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**
- P. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**
- P. For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
- C. **Refrain**



## Prayer of the Day

- A. Let us pray.
- C. **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**

## First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup>as 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! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From 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. <sup>5</sup>You 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. <sup>6</sup>We 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. <sup>7</sup>There 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. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Lighting of Advent Wreath

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

C. Amen



## Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

P. The holy gospel according to Saint Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

### Mark 13:24-37

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>“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. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It 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. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, 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, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**C. Glory to you, O Lord.**  
**P. The gospel of the Lord.**  
**C. Praise to you, O Christ.**



**Sermon**

John Petry, Interim Pastor

**Hymn of the Day**

*Fling Wide the Door*

ELW 259

## *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

*believe*

## Prayers of Intercession

- A. With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

### *A brief silence*

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

- A. All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

### *Other prayers*

- P. Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C. Amen.**

## The Peace

- P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**



## Anthem

This is the Day!

Adapted text and music by Abe Cáceres

Psalms 118:24 and 24:1

## Offertory Prayer

- A. God our provider,  
**C. by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

## The Great Thanksgiving

- P. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

- P. Lift up your hearts.

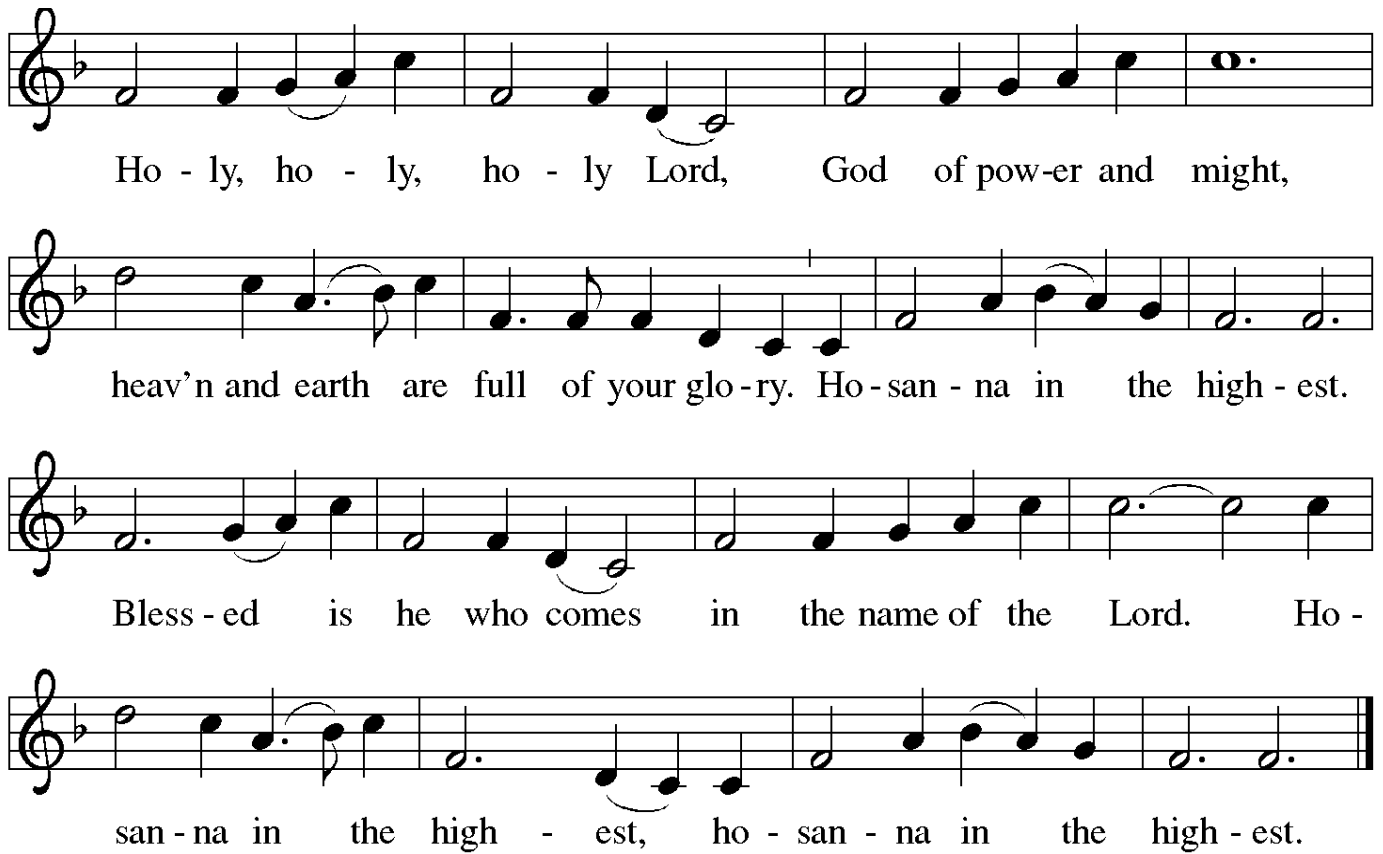
**C. We lift them to the Lord.**

- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- P. It is right that.....we praise your holy name saying:

## The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The 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

## Invitation to Communion

**P.** There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Everyone is invited, no exceptions.

**C. Amen.**

**Communion Hymns***Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

ELW 470

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW 257

**Post Communion Blessing**

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

**C. Amen**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**A.** Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

**P.** The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

**C. Amen**

**Sending Hymn***On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

ELW 249

**Dismissal**

**A.** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**REMINDER:** Each Wednesday evening during Advent – December 6, 13, and 20 – we will have Advent Midweek Worship Services at 7:00 pm.

**All are invited and encouraged to attend!!**

**Servers for Sunday, December 3<sup>th</sup>:**

Assisting Minister..... Shannon Thomsen  
Reader ..... Harry Albert  
Altar Guild ..... Sharyl Eggert  
Greeters ..... Tim Clark / Shannon Thomsen  
Guest Musician ..... Dr. Abe Cáceres



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway.  
Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.

**Candles in the sanctuary this month are provided by  
Matt & Larissa Himmeger, in Loving Memory of Earl Himmeger and Val Borysiewicz.**

**PLEASE JOIN US**  
For  
The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Mary Jo Albert  
Memorial Christmas Concert



**Monday, December 18, 2023  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Performance Musicians  
Dr. Bradley Hunnicutt, *Piano*  
Mr. Ray Greene, *Viola***



## *Social Concerns Angel Tree*

*We have changed the process and the recipients. We are buying gifts for Lawndale Assisted Living. They have 39 residents ... 30 women and 9 men. And this year, we have done the shopping for you!*

*Each blanket costs just \$10.*

*Choose a blanket, put the tag on it, place in the paid blanket bin, sign the list and pay a committee member. We accept cash or checks made out to "Social Concerns Committee". We are also collecting travel sized toiletries until December 17<sup>th</sup>.*



**CHRISTMAS  
PARTY**

**December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**

The LOL Men's Club will again host our annual Congregational Christmas Dinner for all members and their families on Friday night December 8<sup>th</sup> in the LOL Fellowship Hall. **A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board** in the hall. Please sign the sheet to let us know how many individuals from your family will be in attendance.

The men will provide turkey & dressing, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, and green bean casserole. We will also provide coffee, tea, wine and soft drinks. We are asking the congregation to consider providing desserts and any other special holiday dishes that you would like to contribute.



President Steve Brantley will be in charge of the White Elephant Gift Exchange. Please bring wrapped or bagged gifts that cost no more than \$15 for each person in your group that would like to be involved in the gift exchange.