

Last Week (11/22) WH – 27 Orlando – 12

General = \$910

Total Offering = \$910

Usher: Steve | Cleaner (12/5): Pastor | Acolyte (12/6): Mason K.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Nov. 30-Dec. 5, '20.

Mon Isaiah 63:16b-64:1-8 When a sinner strays so far that he dares blame God for his degeneracy, did God stop being God? Indeed, such sinners need help from the only One who controls all forces of nature (64:1-4)--and although God knows how despicable we are (5-6), He still deals with us as our Father, and we are but clay shaped by His hand. From where You abide, O Lord God, come down to where we live, and have mercy on us!

Tues Mark 13:32-37 The Advent of Jesus has many facets: He arrived long ago in His prophetic Word, later in Bethlehem, then in our hearts, and He will arrive finally . . . at midnight? 4:27 a.m.? 6:06 p.m.? Nobody knows, so let's stay prepared (awake in heart and soul) for our Lord and Master to make His final, once-and-for-all appearance on our troubled planet.

Wed 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 While we are waiting, we depend on *the grace of God given to us via Jesus Christ* (and received by us in repentant hearts) in order to *enrich us* in every way possible. And we intend to remain dependent on God to not forget us but preserve us for the end of Time's weary course and re-enliven us in the *fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.* Amen!

Thurs Psalm 24 Our planet belongs to Jesus, who doesn't play games with Earth as His toy but nurtures it as His special project (1-2). Who wants to thank Him (3)? Well, I do, and so do you (4-6). We open all our gateways in private and in public (7) for Jesus, who is ready to come in glory/splendor with the retinue of His holy angels, *strong and mighty*—and all for us! Selah!

Fri Luke 12:41-48 It seems like a good question, "Does God want everyone to understand Him and His ways?" Yes, He does, and therefore every servant of God is responsible for how he handles God's business. The servant who is abusive, despises others, or is self-serving is headed for disaster (45-46), and likewise for the servant who is negligent (47). Dear readers, let's step up to the privileged responsibilities God has placed on our shoulders (48).

Sat Acts 19:1-10 Evidently Paul walked around the city on the lookout for fellow disciples. The ones he came across had a lot to learn (1-3), so Paul started at the beginning, taking time and effort to enlighten them about baptism (4-5) to prepare them for some advanced service-gifts from God the Spirit (6-7). Then he helped other Jews absorb God's good news (8-9)--and when Satan's scholars produced a rift in the congregation, Paul conducted Bible Religion classes for Jews and Greeks, including many who came from surrounding counties. Ephesus was never the same again, thanks be to Jesus, His Spirit, and His disciples.

✠ 8 ✠

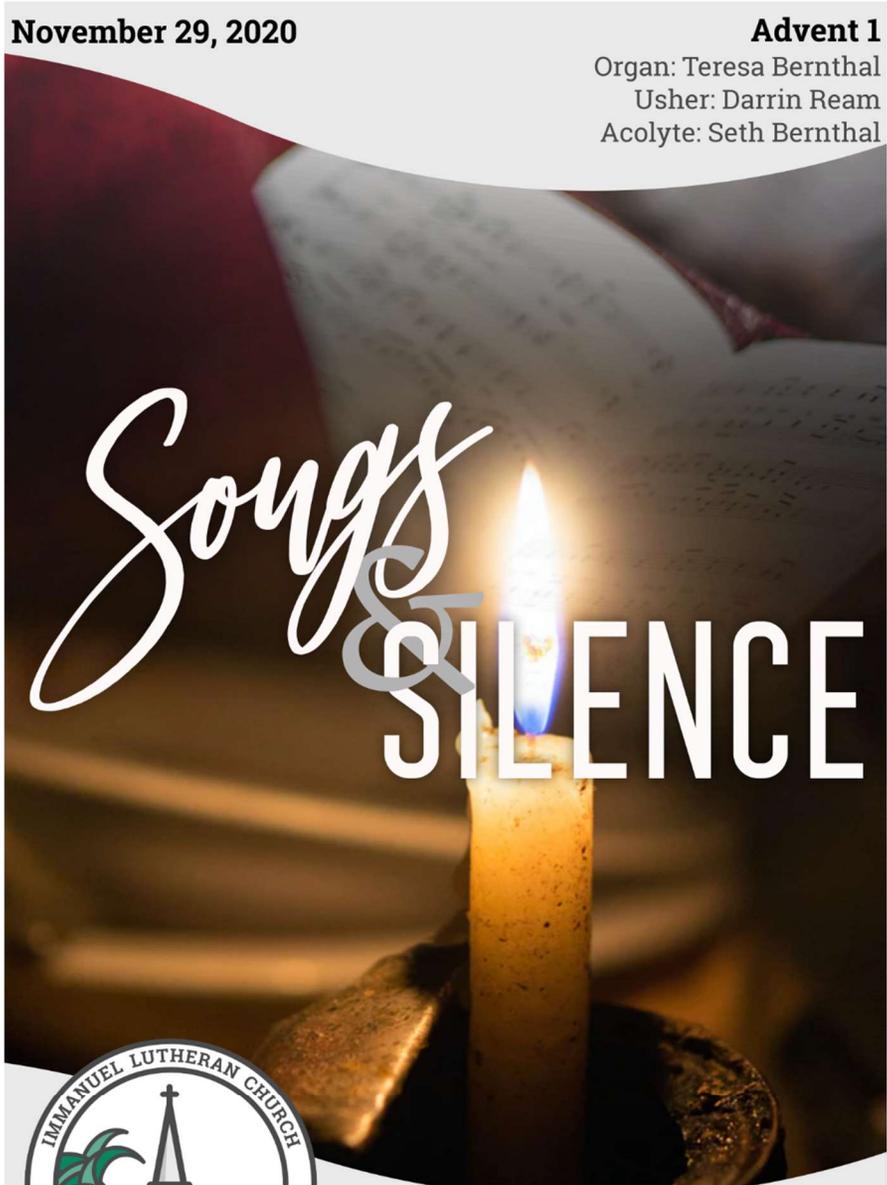
November 29, 2020

Advent 1

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Darrin Ream

Acolyte: Seth Bernthal



Songs & **SILENCE**



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Songs and Silence

Advent is a time of preparation. A common preparation for Christmas comes in the form of Christmas songs. Christmas tunes fill the airwaves this time of year, and we all have a few favorite go-to's. However, silence is also an important tool during our Advent preparations. This is a time of year to silence our thoughts and mediate on God's Word. This Advent, we'll be making use of both Songs and Silence. On the four Sundays of Advent we will be considering the four songs of Christmas. During our Wednesday Evening services we will be considering three lessons of silence.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #66

"Hark the Glad Sound!"

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne And every voice a song.
2. He comes the prisoners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
3. He comes from thickest films of vice To clear the mental ray
And on the eyeballs of the blind To pour celestial day.
4. He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
5. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heaven's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- G** If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- G** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us pray.

3. Ye saints, who here in patience Your cross and sufferings bore,
Shall live and reign forever, When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb ye shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him Your diadems of gold!
4. Our Hope and Expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Desire of nations, O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, That brings us unto Thee!

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: TLH #52 "Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

1. Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Thy grace we now have heard,
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!
2. We praise Thee for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heaven appear.

✠ Announcements ✠

Thank you to everyone that showed up to decorate church!

Our Advent Preparations

continue this Wednesday as we consider the Silence of Zacharias. The service will be live-streamed. Masks will be required in-person.

Looking Ahead...

- ✠ Nov. 29: Masks-on Service 9 am
- ✠ Dec. 2: Mid-Week Advent 6:30 pm
- ✠ Dec. 6: Masks-on Service 9 am
- ✠ Dec. 6: Communion Service
- ✠ Dec. 6: Church Council Meeting

CLC Call News Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL has been called by Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Pastor Del Maas, Gift of God, Mapleton, ND and St. Paul, Ponsford, MN has been called by Redeemer, Bowdle and Zion, Ipswich, SD. <> Recently colloquized Terry Stringer, a member of St., Stephen, Heyward, CA has been called and has accepted the call by Trinity, Spokane, WA to serve as "Assistant Vacancy Pastor" in a one year call. Pastor Wayne Eichstadt is the vacancy pastor.

HYMN: TLH #291:1-2,4-5**“Lamp of Our Feet”**

1. Lamp of our feet whereby we trace Our path when wont to stray;
Stream from the fount of heavenly grace, Brook by the traveler's way.
2. Bread of our souls whereon we feed, True manna from on high;
Our guide and chart wherein we read Of realms beyond the sky;
4. Word of the ever-living God, Will of His glorious Son;
Without thee, how could earth be trod Or heaven itself be won?
5. Lord, grant us all aright to learn The wisdom it imparts
And to its heavenly teaching turn With simple, childlike hearts.

SERMON – Luke 1:39-45 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

“Elizabeth, How did You Know?”

- I. That Mary had been blessed?
- II. That Mary's Child was the Blessed One?
- III. That God's promises would be fulfilled?

HYMN: TLH #72**“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”**

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, And soon He draweth nigh;
Up, pray and watch and wrestle! At midnight comes the cry.
2. The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go meet Him as He cometh, With hallelujahs clear.
The marriage-feast is waiting, The gates wide open stand;
Up, up, ye heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand!

G Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

G **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

INTROIT*Ps. 135:1-5, 13**A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

- P** Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD,
- G** **Who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!**
- P** Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to His name, for it is pleasant!
- G** **For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel as His own possession.**
- P** For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.
- G** **Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.**
- P** Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.

COLLECT OF THE DAY*A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.*

- P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Genesis 18:1-15 And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on-- since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." ⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰ The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'" ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵ But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

EPISTLE READING – 2 Timothy 1:1-7 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, ² To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which

is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

GOSPEL READING – Luke 1:26-38 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy-- the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.