

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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November 26, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



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Secretary, Sue Wiener

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Prelude/Procession/Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of Advent Candle “Christ, Be Our Light” ELW #715

v. 1 – Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Augsburg Fortress #SB109327

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L: Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God’s eternal time.

C: How long, O Lord, how long?

L: For those waiting for answered prayer:

C: Grant your steadfast patience.

L: For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

C: Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.

L: For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

C: Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.

L: For all of us waiting for God’s kingdom to come:

C: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

“Christ, Be Our Light” ELW #715

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

***Prayer**

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

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

C: Amen.

L: 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.

L: 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.

***Gathering Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW 257 (vs. 1,2,3)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

***Apostolic Greeting:**

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.**

***The Prayer of the Day:**

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.**

***Hymn of Praise:** “Glory to God” ELW Setting 3, Page 139-140

Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Scripture 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalm Reading:

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

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

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

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

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

C: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

L: **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Scripture 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia"

ELW, Setting 3, Page 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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***Holy Gospel:**

Mark 13:24-37

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of Mark.

C: 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 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.”

L: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

***Hymn:** “Soon and Very Soon”

ELW #439

1 Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King

Chorus

Hallelujah hallelujah
We're going to see the King
3 No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King
No more dying there
We are going to see the King. *Chorus:*

***Apostles' Creed:**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

***Prayers of the People:**

L: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.

***Peace:**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW #182

***Offertory Prayer:**

God our provider, 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 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.

***Benediction:**

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.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn: "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"**

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

***Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Keep awake. C: Thanks be to God.