

**8:45 A.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*(Please follow the ushers' direction on seating. We will maintain at least 6 feet between individuals unless you come as a family who live together.)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**PRELUDE: "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" – Paul Manz**

P. We prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Amen.**

**CONFESSION:**

**C. Almighty God, I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. I have sinned by what I have done and what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart.**

**I have not loved my neighbor as myself. Forgive me. Renew me. Lead me. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who suffered for us all and was raised from the dead, that first Easter. Amen.**

P. It is always my honor and privilege to announce that God has freely forgiven you and me. We stand here, trusting, by God's grace alone. We stand here as free men and women, boys and girls. May the wind of Pentecost move our hearts and our hands.

**C. Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"**

1 Rise up, O saints of God!  
 From vain ambitions turn;  
 Christ rose triumphant that your hearts  
 with nobler zeal might burn.

3 Rise up, O saints of God!  
 The kingdom's task embrace;  
 redress sin's cruel consequence;  
 give justice larger place.

5 Commit your hearts to seek  
 the paths which Christ has trod;  
 and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,  
 rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

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**APOSTOLIC 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**Dear God, give us eyes of faith. Through the cross, we see that every ending can be a new beginning. Through your Resurrection, we see that every beginning can be a helpful ending. Help us to see you in all of it. Amen.**

**BIBLE READINGS**

**SERMON: "Starting At the Finish Line?"**

**Pastor Larry Isbell**

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite  
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
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**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 dead,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(At the end of each petition, the leader will say "Lord, in your mercy." Feel free to respond with "Hear our prayer.")*

**THE BLESSING OF THE OFFERING****COMMUNION LITURGY**

P. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.**

**HOLY COMMUNION:**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We trust and teach the "real presence" of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine.*

**C. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

**Distribution:**

P. The body of Christ, given.  
*The communion wafer is consumed at this time.*

P: The blood of Christ, shed.  
*The communion wine is consumed at this time.*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.  
**C: Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

P. Let us 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 through this gift – in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**BENEDICTION:**

P. Now may God, who has loved us with a love beyond all telling, send us forth to care for the world around us and to share the good news of that love, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”**

- 1     Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
      where sound the cries of race and clan,  
      above the noise of selfish strife,  
      we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
  
- 2     In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
      on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,  
      from paths where hide the lures of greed,  
      we catch the vision of your tears.
  
- 3     From tender childhood's helplessness,  
      from human grief and burdened toil,  
      from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,  
      your heart has never known recoil.
  
- 4     The cup of water giv'n for you  
      still holds the freshness of your grace;  
      yet long these multitudes to view  
      the strong compassion in your face.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850-1935, alt.

**DISMISSAL:**

- P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
- C. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”**

*(Please exit row by row, beginning with the back.  
Talk to others from a distance in the parking lot.)*

**Today's altar flowers are given by Theresa & Gary Forkert in honor of Jake's birthday  
and by Mike & Susan Harrison in honor of Wilna Braun's birthday.**