

Isaiah 64:1–9 (ESV)

Oh that you would rend the heavens
and come down,
that the mountains might quake at
your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to
your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at
your presence!

³ When you did awesome things
that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains
quaked at your presence.

⁴ From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides
you,
who acts for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet him who joyfully
works righteousness,
those who remember you in your
ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we
sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time,
and shall we be saved?

⁶ We have all become like one who
is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a
polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take
us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls upon
your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of
you;

for you have hidden your face
from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of
our iniquities.

⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our
Father;
we are the clay, and you are our
potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your
people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (ESV)

³ Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always
for you because of the grace of God
that was given you in Christ Jesus,
⁵ that in every way you were enriched
in him in all speech and all
knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony
about Christ was confirmed among
you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in
any gift, as you wait for the revealing
of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will
sustain you to the end, guiltless in the
day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is
faithful, by whom you were called
into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37 (ESV)

"But in those days, after that
tribulation, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵
and the stars will be falling from
heaven, and the powers in the heavens
will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will
see the Son of Man coming in clouds
with great power and glory. ²⁷ And
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.

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its
lesson: as soon as its branch becomes
tender and puts out its leaves, you

know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the

time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning – ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 64:1–9

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Mark 11:1–10 (Mark 13:24–37)

The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us

Although we pray that God “*would rend the heavens and come down*” (Is. 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves “*have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment*” (Is. 64:6). We have continued in our sins for “*a long time, and shall we be saved?*” (Is. 64:5). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the Cross (Mark 11:4–8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel we are “*enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge,*” and so He will “*sustain you to the end*” (1 Cor. 1:5, 8). Although “*heaven and earth will pass away,*” His words “*will not pass away*” (Mark 13:31). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He “*send out the angels*” to gather us and all of His elect “*from the ends of the earth*” to Himself in heaven forever (Mark 13:27).

Next Week's Readings from God's Word:

December 6: Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85(v.9); 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

THE BIBLE – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

GOD – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

MAN – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

SIN – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

REDEMPTION – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

FAITH – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

THE CHURCH – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

SACRAMENTS – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

RESURRECTION – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

INTROIT

Psalm 25:1–3; Antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b

*Behold, your king is coming to you,
righteous and having salvation.*

*To You, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.*

*O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.*

*Indeed none who wait for you shall ever be put to shame,
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.*

**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.**

*Behold, your king is coming to you,
righteous and having salvation.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *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;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

G *♪[Amen]♪*

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

*Behold, your king is coming to you,
righteous and having salvation.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,
G hear our prayer.