November 29th, 2026

1st Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion

WE HEAR THE STORY

1st Reading: Isaiah 64: 1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would
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, so that the nations might tremble at
your presence! 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down;
the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 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.
5 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. 6 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. 7 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. 8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Maker; we are the clay,
and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be exceedingly angry,
O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

We will now speak Psalm 80 responsively with the congregation speaking the bolded text.

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 **O Lord | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 **Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

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

Gospel: Mark 13: 24-37

[Jesus said:] 24 “In those days, after that suffering,
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 “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the 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. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven 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 Creator. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like one going on a journey, when they leaves home and put their slaves in charge, each with their work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 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, 36 or else they may find you asleep when they comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Prayers of the People

L: In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need, saying "God with us" and responding "be with us."

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God with us, **Be with us.**

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God with us, **Be with us.**

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God with us, **Be with us.**

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry, especially Jose, Ann, Joan, Terri, Martha, Tim, Roxie, Chris, Alfred, Terry, Eleanor, Alma, Adam, Sylvia, George, Harold, Ted, Byron, and all for whom we pray at this time silently or aloud. [Pause] Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God with us, **Be with us.**

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God with us, **Be with us.**

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God with us, **Be with us.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**