

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

November 27, 2011

The Word of God

Prelude

Rule Beasley

The Opening Hymn

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Hymnal 57

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Words: Charles Wesley; Public Domain

Lighting of the Advent Wreath- *Light one candle of Hope (Peace, Joy, Love)- Sing:*

Light one candle for hope, One bright candle for hope, He brings hope to every heart, He comes, he comes.

Celebrant Let us open our celebration with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

ALL **God, grant us the Serenity to accept the things we cannot change,
the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference,
Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time,
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,
not as we would have it, trusting that you will make all things right
if we surrender to your will, that we may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with you forever in the next. Amen.**

[Step 1] **We admitted we were powerless over addiction – that our lives
had become unmanageable.**

[Step 2] **Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.**

[Step 3] **Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God
as we understood God**

Celebrant God, we offer ourselves to you, to build with us and do with us as you will. Relieve us of the bondage of self, that we may better do your will. Take away our difficulties; that victory over them may bear witness to those we would help-of your power, your love, your way of life. May we do your will always. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- 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! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

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. 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. 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. 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.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 Qui regis Israel

Page 702, BCP

Setting LEVAS 275

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a **flock**; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the **cherubim**.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Man-asseh, *
stir up your strength and come to **help us**.

Restore us, O God of **hosts**; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be **saved**.
O LORD God of **hosts**, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your **people**?

You have fed them with the bread of **tears**; *
you have given them bowls of tears to **drink**.
You have made us the derision of our **neighbors**, *
and our enemies laugh us to **scorn**.

Restore us, O God of **hosts**; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be **saved**.
Let your hand be upon the man of your right **hand**, *
the son of man you have made so strong for your-**self**.

And so will we never turn a-**way from you**; *
give us life, that we may call upon your **Name**.
Restore us, O LORD God of **hosts**; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be **saved**.

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

Signs of endings all around us

WLP 721

Signs of endings all around us- darkness, death, and winter days-
shroud our lives in fear and sadness, numbing mouths that long to praise.
Come, O Christ, and dwell among us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Give us hope and faith and gladness, Show us what there yet can be.

Can it be that from our ending, new beginnings you creat?
Life from death, and from our rendings, realms of wholeness generate?
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them into hopes for life anew:
Fading light and dying season sing their Glorias to you.

Speak, O God, your Word among us. Barren lives your presence fill.
Swell our hearts with songs of gladness, terrors calm forebodings still.
Let your promised realm of justice blossom now throughout the earth;
Your dominion bring now near us; we await the saving birth.

Words: Dean W. Nelson; OneLicense A-719932

The Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Deacon

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see `the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 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.

"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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Lord, we cry out to you; we have cried out to you from the pain of our lives and our addiction. In your great mercy you hear us and grant us your gift of recovery.

All: **May we always be grateful and willing to embrace spiritual growth.**

Leader: Lord, you brought us to our senses and awakened us to a new dimension of your reality; a world free from addiction and blessed by your presence.

All: **May we see your loving purpose in all things. Relieve us now from the bondage of self as you teach us to live and let live, one day at a time.**

Leader: Lord, we now are willing that you should have all of us, to make of us and do with us as you will.

All: **Remove from us now every defect of character that stands in the way of our usefulness to you and to all.**

Leader: Lord, we pray for healing in our families, in our workplaces and in all our relationships as well as for the comfort and healing of alcoholics and addicts and all who suffer.

All: **That they know a new freedom and a new happiness.**

Leader: Lord, we commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled. We pray especially for those who have shown us the way to recovery; for the founders of fellowships, for sponsors and for friends; for those known and unknown to us who died sober and for those who died in their illness. *(Please name those on your heart.)*

All: **They taught us to love and to be grateful. They are with us in the Fellowship of the Spirit.**

Leader: In our congregational cycle of prayer, we pray for Art Schafroth, Joanne Manciu, Chuck Miller, Dewanda Clark, and Jerry Davis; we pray for St. Paul's, our friends, family and all others in need of our prayers. Please add your own petitions either aloud or in your hearts.....
...Let us pray to the lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord, we know you hear the prayers of your people gathered here. Together we thank you for all you have given us and we thank you for all you have taken away. Grant the requests we have asked if they be within your will.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Lord and Brother Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor, remembering that we:

[Step 4] **Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.**

[Step 5] **Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.**

All: **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, Opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant: Having made our confession before God, we now remember that we:

[Step 6] **Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.**

[Step 7] **Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Our creator, we are now willing that you should have all of us, good and bad. We pray that you remove from us every single defect of character which stands in the way of our usefulness to you and our fellows, and grant us strength as we go out from here to do your bidding. Amen.**

Celebrant: To show our willingness to do this, we:

[Step 8] **Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.**

[Step 9] **Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.**

[Step 10] **Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you; forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements, Thanksgivings and Celebrations of Life

The Thank Offerings this quarter are being given for Big Brother Big Sister

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Celtic Advent Carol

Choir

The Doxology

Hymnal 380

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP p369

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
People **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.
Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast..**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy Food for Holy People.

All are encouraged to receive Holy Communion in the elements of bread and grape juice, or in a blessing.

At this Eucharist, unsweetened grape juice is used in lieu of wine.

Gluten free bread is available- please tell the server if you would like to receive it rather than bread.

The Communion Hymns

Heal me, hands of Jesus

WLP 773

Heal me, hands of Jesus, and search out all my pain:
restore my hope, remove my fear and bring me peace again.

Cleanse me, blood of Jesus, take bitterness away;
let me forgive as one forgiven and bring me peace today.

Know me, mind of Jesus, and show me all my sin;
dispel the memories of guilt, and bring me peace within.

Fill me, joy of Jesus: anxiety shall cease
and heaven's serenity be mine, for Jesus brings me peace!

Words: Michael Perry; Hope Pub Co. OneLicense A-719932

Lead me, guide me, along the way

WLP 756/ LEVAS 194

Lead me, guide me, along the way, For if you lead me, I cannot stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need thy strength and power To help me over my weakest hour;
Help me through the darkness thy face to see, Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when satan and sin oppress;
I am putting all my trust in thee. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without thy light to see;
Lord, just always let me thy servant be. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Afro-American Spiritual-Public Domain

The Postcommunion Prayer

Please stand.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

[Step 11] **We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand God, praying only for knowledge of God's will and the power to carry that out.**

[Step 12] **Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.**

The Advent Blessing:

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn

We're marching to Zion

LEVAS 12

Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known; Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord, And thus surround the throne, And thus surround the throne.

*Refrain: We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.*

Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God; But children of the heav'nly King,
But children of the heav'nly King, May speak their joys abroad, May speak their joys abroad. *Refrain*

The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Before we reach the heav'nly fields, Or walk the golden streets, Or walk the golden streets. *Refrain*

Then let our songs abound, And ev'ry tear be dry; We're marching through Immanuel's ground,
We're marching thro' Immanuel's ground, To fairer worlds on high, To fairer worlds on high. *Refrain*

Words: Isaac Watts; Public Domain

The Dismissal

Deacon

People

Thanks be to God!

The Postlude

Rule Beasley

Today's Servers~

Celebrant: The Rev. Janet Fullmer; Deacon: The Rev. Stephen Schafroth; Preacher: Skip Fisher;

Acolyte: Anna Miller; Worship Leader: Ron Fullmer; Eucharist Minister: Diane Walworth;

Pianist: Rule Beasley; Lector: 8:00-Barbee Hodgkins, 10:00-Marilyn Roth;

Prayers of the People: 8:00-Barbara Telfer, 10:00- Denise Beasley;

Altar Guild: Monte Dickinson; Joanne Manciu; Flowers: Ron and Janet Fullmer;

Greeter: Pat Fowler; Coffee Hosts: Laurance and Ava Kerr

PLEASE PRAY For our diocese, friends and family:

In our diocesan cycle of prayer: St. Andrew's Episcopal/Peace Lutheran/Church of the Living Waters, Burns, and Pastor Matthew Littau, ask prayers "for our elders, especially Minerva Soucie who has been rather seriously ill this week. Our young people and children also need our prayers. Church of the Living Waters has begun a Sunday School and it is going fairly well. Pray that our Sunday School efforts will be blessed."

For Comfort, Healing and Strength: For Comfort, Healing and Strength:

For our Vestry and work groups: Building and Administration: Laurance Kerr, Junior Warden; Jill Durow, Pat Fowler, Jenny Curtis, Jerry Frazier, Treasurer; Relationship/Serving: Andrea Booren, Amy McIlvenna, Julie Reynolds, Diane Walworth; Worship/Education: Diane Walworth, Joanne Manciu, Robert Kirby, Julie Reynolds, Monte Dickinson, Senior Warden; and Deb Hucke, Deputy Clerk.

For those serving in the Armed Forces of our Country and for all those who serve and protect us, especially: In Iraq and Afghanistan: Roland Willoughby, Crystal Cornejo, and Brandon Lee; John Bixler, Kelsey Neubauer, Albert South, Kyle McCullough, Turf McCullough, Kevin Gross, Travis Kennedy, Ben Schloss, Michael Stebbins and Max Turner, Amy and Gavin McIlvenna.

CALENDAR:

<i>Tuesday</i>	Bible Study	1:00 pm	<i>Mill Creek-3rd Floor</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	Eucharist	Noon	<i>Diocesan Chapel</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	Healing Service	Noon	<i>St. Paul's</i>

Readings for Sunday Dec. 4, 2011

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Worship Leader training today following the 10:00 service. All are welcome! Later today- COMMUNITY MEALS- 4:00 pm, St. Vincent de Paul: See Denise Beasley for more info!

Tuesdays with Choir- Tuesday evenings in Advent...choir practice! Fun and preparation for the music and gift of leading the wonderful music offered during Advent and Christmas. Hours of practice are 5:30-6:30.

Next Sunday: INTERGENERATIONAL HOUR- Advent Theme- All ages, lots of fun, Please Come, enjoy the activity, support the children and teachers, and learn something— How cool is that?!

Also next Sunday: Eucharist Service at Mill Creek, 3rd Floor, 1:30, and every first Sunday of the month. All are welcome- please join us!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY- Work continues ongoing at Janeal's Habitat House: 2419 E. 16th (16th & Thompson. Workdays are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 8:30 to 12:30. There is a job for all skills and abilities, you can come for an hour or the day, and water and snacks are provided. Check out the web site for photos as the work progresses. See John Adams or Ron Fullmer for more information. So, put on your work clothes and join the very rewarding, and very exciting, fun!

TUTORS NEEDED! Join Pam Miller for High School tutoring, SMART for Elementary and HS-

see Pam, Diane Walworth, or Outreach Minutes for more information and additional contact info.

VESTRY ORGANIZATION- Vestry news including an organizational chart and *Who's Who* for information, committees, etc; a church *Calendar at a Glance*; pictures, notices of parish events, financial reports, and other sundry items of interest are on the bulletin board, kiosk in the narthex and on the web site. Financial records and vestry minutes are in notebooks in the office-Please check them out!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Coming up in December:

Saturday, December 3: Experience **Ignatian Spirituality** ~ 10:00-3:00, lunch provided;
Sunday, Dec. 4, **Intergenerational Hour**, Advent Theme at 9:00 am;

Eucharist Service at Mill Creek, 1:30 pm;
Wednesday December 7: **Potluck** at 5:30 pm, hosted by our *Cursillo Community*;

Tuesday Dec. 13, 7:00 Lib- **Book Study**, discussing *Have a Little Faith*, by Mitch Albom;

Sunday Dec. 18: **Lessons and Carols** at 4:00 pm;
Saturday Dec. 24, **Christmas Eve Services:**

Family Service at 5:00 pm,
Carols at 9:30 pm,
Traditional Service at 10:00 pm;

Sunday Dec. 25, **Christmas Day**, 8:00 and 10:00, right here at St. Paul's on Minnesota St. as usual- but very festive! **All are Welcome!**

St. Paul's is a loving, welcoming Christian community gathered to be Christ's hands and heart in the world.