

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020

“Word Out” video transcript

Prelude Chorale prelude on NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, BWV 659
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

Welcome

P: Welcome, this First Sunday of Advent to Queen Anne Lutheran Church. Wherever you are listening, whatever challenges you might be facing, we invite you into this space: one where you can hear the good news in proclamation, spoken and sung; a time where you can be still, and know God is God.

When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven in today’s Gospel reading, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we truly consider the suffering of people God loves – the vulnerable, the marginalized – we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come to them. This is the season of Advent, when we look finally not even to the sky, but to the horizon, in the hope of a new beginning.

Today’s service itself features a new beginning. Months into a pandemic that seems indefinite, we at Queen Anne Lutheran recognize the spiritual need for sustenance; a need we did not anticipate in the early days of the outbreak. In response to that pastoral need, and with the full endorsement of our Worship and Music committee, we will be celebrating Communion during today’s service. If you wish to partake at home, we invite you, once I have spoken the Words of Institution, to participate. Simply have on hand some bread, and a small amount of wine or grape juice, and receive at my direction.

We begin our service now with a Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness.

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Self-humbling God,
C: we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P: People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
you are forgiven your sins, and freed—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in peace before God and your neighbor.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
✠ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

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.

Lighting of One Advent Candle

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, source of the universe.
You call all nations to walk in your light,
and to seek your ways of justice and peace.
For the night is passing, and the dawn of your coming is near.
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.

Awaken us, that we may be ready to greet you
when you come to us, and welcome you
in the form of your Son into our hearts and homes,
for He is our light, and our salvation.
Amen.



Gathering Hymn

Light One Candle

stanza 1

ELW 240



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Gospel Acclamation

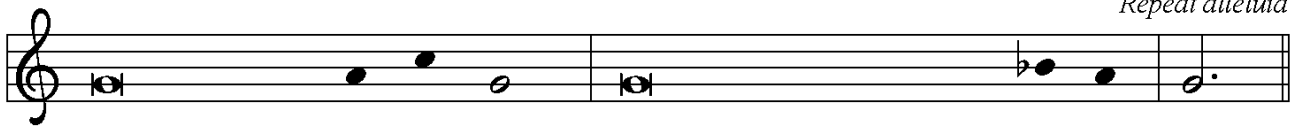
Psalm 85:7



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Repeat alleluia

A: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

and grant us your salvation.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel:

Mark 13:24-37

- P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.
G: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: [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.”

- P:** The Gospel of our Lord.
G: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Together Again
Pastor Dave Brauer-Rieke

(Pastor Dave cuts holly, and lights an Advent candle on a small home altar by a fireplace.)

Hi, my name is Dave Brauer-Rieke. I work with Lutheran Disaster Response in Region One as our Disaster Preparedness Program Coordinator. It’s great to be with you this morning.

I'm up in a cabin in Welches, Oregon, getting ready for Christmas, thinking how normalizing it feels to do a religious ritual that actually belongs *at home*. I mean, a lot of us, because we're not attending church together, are doing church things in our home on Zoom, and that's a gift. But *this* feels like every Advent; to decorate, and to light the first Advent candle, is just a gift. And so I'm just sitting here watching the flame flicker, and thinking about what a glorious time of year it is.

The Gospel lesson we just read, of course, doesn't want to cooperate with that spirit! As the disaster guy, you know, you read about the sun and the moon not giving their light and the stars falling from the sky, and you're thinking, oh my goodness, you're talking about disaster – if even one little piece of one star wiped out all the dinosaurs, what would this mean, to have all the stars fall from the sky?

But as I thought about that, I realized that that perspective comes to me because I have a 21st Century cosmology in my mind, and to have “the stars fall from the sky” to me would mean just the collapse of the universe, and how could anybody survive that?

So, I want you to think with me about what that might have meant to those who heard Jesus say this, and I want to go back to the book of Genesis chapter one, because that's where we learned about why the sun and the moon and the stars are there. So, in Genesis chapter one we read, “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light’ and there was light.” You know, *that* light, that great gift of God that that started, and the light that's rejoiced about in Christmas through John chapter one, right – *that* light has nothing to do with the sun, the moon and the stars. It is a transcendent understanding; it is the gift of notice and grace.

So what we read in Genesis chapter one is that the world was just in utter chaos, which is symbolized by the roaring seas, and darkness. And God says, “Let's look, let's care. Let's notice, let's think about what we might do.” So God says, “Let there be light,” and there is light, and it's good. That's the first day of creation.

And then wonderfully, the second day of creation, God says, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters. Let there be a dome, in the midst of the waters

to separate the waters that are above, from the waters that are below.” We can see the dome, when you look up in the sky, we call it the sky, right. And “the dome” for ancient people, that dome, as we read Genesis one, keeps the chaos and the darkness of this cosmic ocean away from us. And in creating the dome, God creates a space, a sanctuary; a place for life to flourish.

It’s interesting to me that in Genesis, chapter seven, verse 11, we read about Noah and the flood. What is said is, that after Noah and his family and the animals are safely on the ark, God opens the windows in the dome. God opens the windows in the firmament, and the chaos comes rushing back into the sanctuary God had created and life is destroyed – all but destroyed. So it is this dome, this sanctuary, that scripturally is our safety and our shield.

On the third day of creation – does God create? God creates the dry land and pushes the chaos in the seas to the periphery of our life, so not only do we have space to live in, but now a place to be, and from that Earth comes vegetation and trees and ferns and flowers and apples and all sorts of wonderful things.

And still, no sun, or moon, or stars.

So it is the fourth day of creation, when God says, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years. And it was so.”

God says, “Let there be lights *in* the dome and let them be for signs and for seasons.” That’s different, that’s different. And the word for “lights” is really “lantern,” so you get this wonderful picture, which is great at Christmas time, of decorating the dome, right? Strings of little twinkly sparkling lights hanging from the dome, that we might celebrate and have fun and be in a joyful mood; that’s what God does, God decorates the dome. God decorates the firmament with twinkling lights or what we call stars, and larger lights, Sun and Moon, which help us know when to go to bed, when to plant our crops, when to put on suntan lotion and those sorts of things. I don’t want to minimize the gift of those things, but they are not, in the mindset of Biblical people, what they are for me.

So, in our text today for Advent One, when Jesus says there’ll be signs in the heaven; the sun, the moon will not give their light; it’ll be dark, and the stars will fall: We have a little bit of a mess on our hands.

But the dome, the firmament stands, and the sanctuary is secure!
And within that space that God has created and still protects, even in the darkness, the angels now descend with Jesus to gather us up from the places where we have run and hidden from the margins of life and bring us back together.

Rather than chaos, my image now is “intermission at a show.” Between the acts, when we go out, spread around the building, and then they blink the lights, and the ushers call us back for the second act. *That’s* how I understand this text.

And Jesus even says, think of other signs, think of the fig tree. What does that mean? You see this happening and you respond: Now when the lights blink, when the stars fall, when there’s darkness, and the angels come and say, “Okay, come back now,” that is an *invitation*, an invitation to the second act, to the ongoing drama of God and God’s people.

So as we start this Advent season, and we light one candle,
as we push the darkness back, remembering how God pushes the chaos back,
as we let this light gather us back to the joy and the gift of Jesus,
as we let the light grow and see the people of God gather again,
let us wait for the curtain to rise on the second act
and see the glory of God sweep over the face of the earth,
through your words, your actions, your hopes, your prayers,
your compassion, and your concern.

Oh Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall. . .



Hymn of the Day

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

ELW 435

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

The Apostles' Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: 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 again 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 Church

P: God of justice, empty the heavens and descend into this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

P: We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. We pray for those organizations serving people in need, including New Horizons, Queen Anne Helpline, and Queen Anne Food Bank. Relieve burdens, sustain bodies, and ease minds. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. We pray as well for all those who have been affected by COVID-19. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: For who or what else do the people of God pray?

A silence is given so that your prayers may be offered.

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

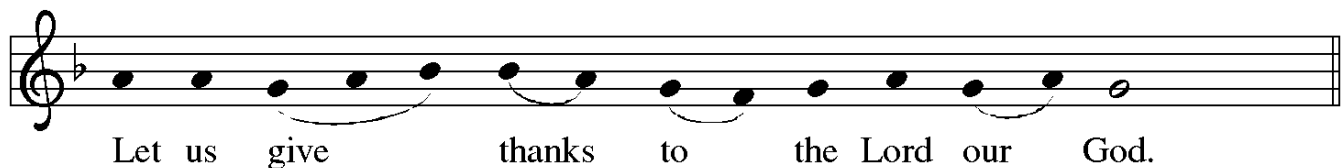
P: We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, and healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Draw us near, God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

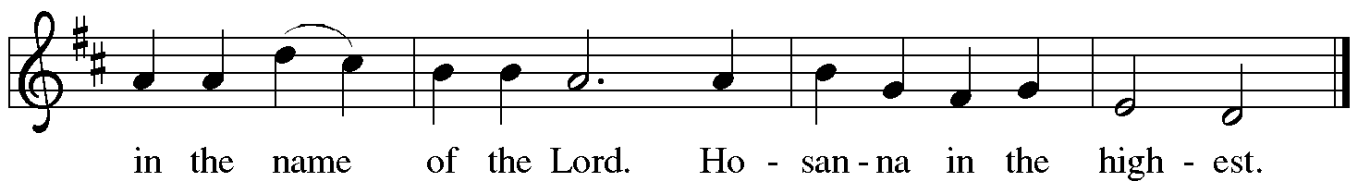
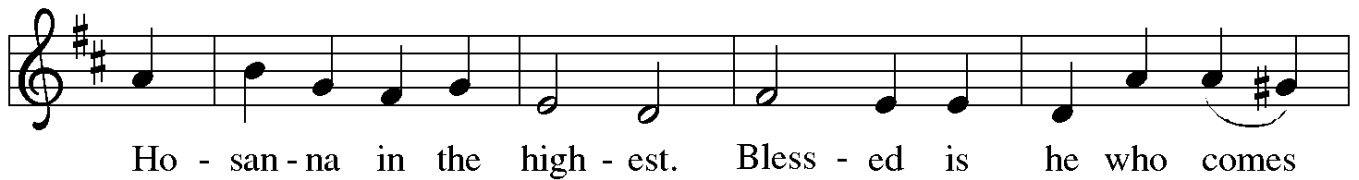
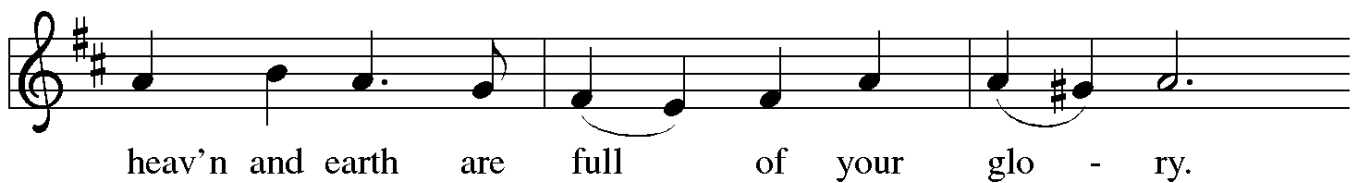
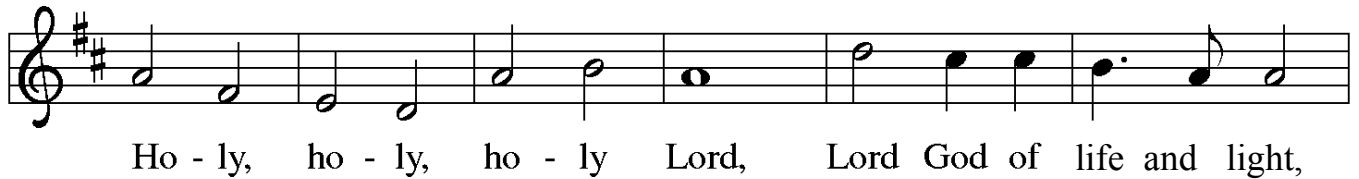
C: **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

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.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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.
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.**

Invitation to the Table

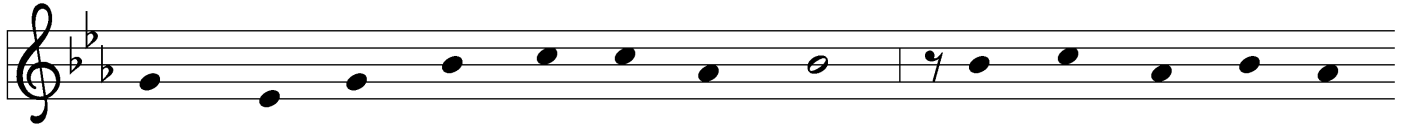
P: All are welcome at this table.
If you wish to partake of communion at this time at home,
we invite you to receive the body of Christ, broken for you,
and to receive the blood of Christ, shed for you.

Distribution Hymn

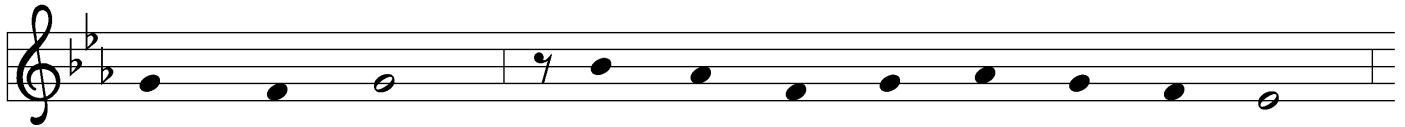
stanzas 1,2 and 5

Creator of the Stars of Night

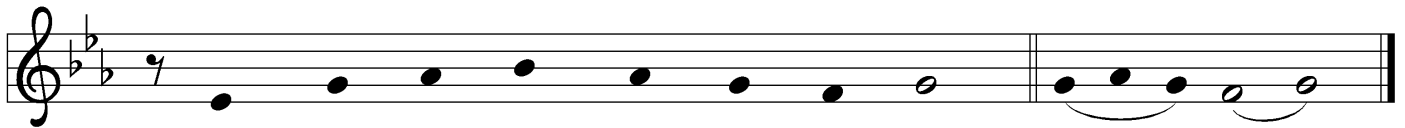
ELW Hymn 240



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV

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Post Communion Prayer

P: And now may the body and blood of Christ our Lord strengthen you, keep you in true faith, and lead you to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

Announcements

- P:** We are delighted to have you join us for today's service.
Though our building remains empty, our ministry is full and active.
You can find out more by going to our website, queenannelutheran.org.

Benediction

- A:** Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
- P:** Eternal God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve you.
- G:** **Amen.**

Dismissal

- P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- G:** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Chorale prelude on NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)



Queen Anne

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Called to Proclaim God's Love in Christ for Every Person

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✘ *Staff* ✘

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Dan Peterson
Cantor	Kyle Haugen
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Terry Anderson
Parish Administrator	Barb Bash
Sexton	John Bryant

✘ *In Worship Today* ✘

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Dan Peterson
Guest Preacher	Rev. Dave Brauer-Rieke <i>Disaster Preparedness Program Coordinator, Lutheran Disaster Response</i>
Cantor	Kyle Haugen

This service of worship can also be seen as video online. Go to queenannelutheran.org and click on "WORD OUT" to find audio, video, and print resources for worship at home, as well as resources to use with children.

Many thanks to Todd Bishop and Kyle Haugen for their technical assistance.