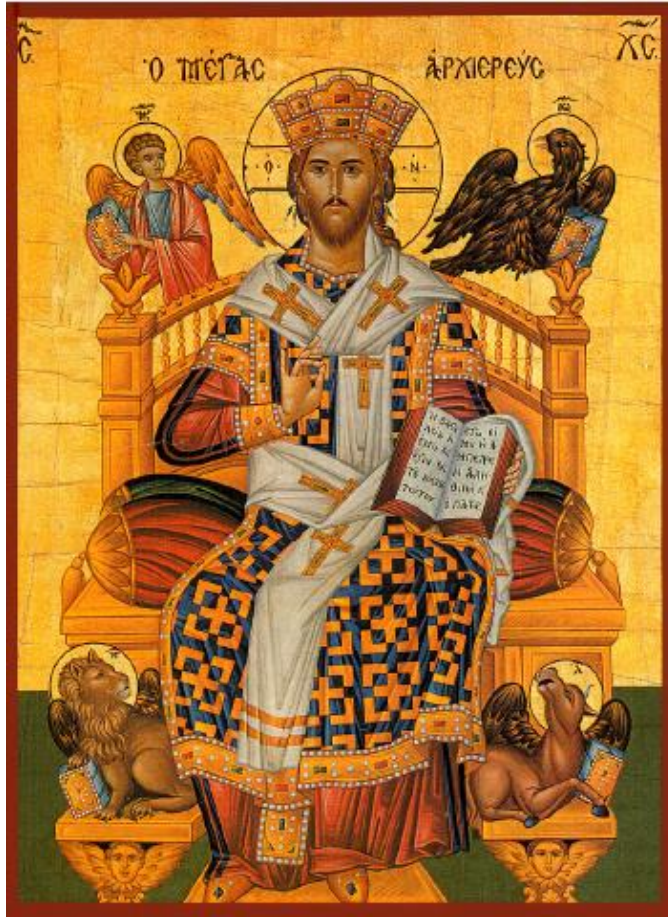


SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

Divine Service



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, Massachusetts

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

1 Hager Park Road
(Junction 140, 2, and 2A)
Westminster, MA 01473

Our Savior Lutheran Church

November 22, 2020

office@oursaviorlcms.com
church: 978-874-2479
www.oursaviorlcms.com

Service Guidelines

- Follow the directions of greeters, hosts, Pastor, and elders about how and when to enter, where to sit, how to receive communion, when to exit, and so forth
- Don't come if you are sick, have symptoms, or have potentially been exposed
- No handshakes, hugs, or touches. Keep 6 feet apart unless you are a joint household
- Masks are to be worn at all times (if possible), especially entering, exiting, and moving about
- Movement into & out of the sanctuary should be kept to a minimum
- Be gracious & considerate of your neighbors
- Don't overcrowd – cars, conversations/groups in walkways or doorways, etc.
- Extended conversations are encouraged, but outdoors & after service

Holy Communion

We welcome to the Lord's Table members of Our Savior and members of sister congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Visitors may come forward with arms crossed for a blessing. Our pastor would be glad to instruct you so that you can confess Jesus Christ with us and receive His holy body and blood for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

The body of Christ will be placed into the hand. The blood of Christ will be received from individual glass cups. Distribution will be in a continuous line rather than at the altar rail.

Spiritual Care

Individual confession and absolution, spiritual care, and pastoral counsel are available by phone, by appointment at church, or by home visit. Please contact the church office to schedule a time.

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher & Celebrant

Rev. Peter Gregory

Assisting (9:00 am)

Dave Farabaugh

(11:00 am)

Ray Arsenault

Organist (9:00 & 11:00 am)

Anne Bennet

Divine Service, Singing, and COVID-19

Along with what we are already doing on Sundays (*masks when coming, going, and moving about; physical distancing; running HEPA filters; multiple services*) and in light of the rising number of cases, including locally, we have made these changes to our Sunday services:

- For all services **masks are required**, especially while singing the liturgy and hymns. *Anyone unable to wear a mask due to medical or health issues should speak with pastor.*
- The 6:00 pm evening service will be entirely spoken. **There will be no singing.**

Prayers for Worship

The Prayer of the Waiting Bride, the Church: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen. (Revelation 22:20)

Approaching our last hour: Into Your hands, O Lord, I commit my spirit. (Luke 23:46/Psalm 31:5)

With an eye toward the end: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever. Amen.

Cover Illustration

Icon of Christ enthroned in glory.

OPENING HYMN—TUNE: TLH 473 – TEXT: RMH

- 1 **Oh, let the veil be parted!**
Oh, let the Lord appear,
The Man so lowly-hearted,
The God of countless years.
Let earth fall down and fear Him,
Who dooms to heav'n or hell;
Let all creation hear Him,
The LORD of Israel.
- 2 **Once, sinners tore asunder**
The veil of flesh He wears;
The God of fire and thunder
Poured forth in blood and tears.
Amazing love outflowing
That cancels all our shame;
The Pow'r beyond all knowing
Our Sacrifice became.
- 3 **Now veiled in Word and Water,**
In holy Bread and Wine,
The Lamb once led to slaughter
Fills ev'ry humblest shrine,
With gentle pardon sealing
The servants of the Lamb
Who long for the revealing
Of Christ, the Great I AM.
- 4 **Look up! The skies are tearing!**
He comes in glory bare!
And, changed by His appearing,
We rise through shining air!
'Mid lightnings of Your splendor
And thund'ring shouts of praise,
O Terrible and Tender,
We see You face to Face!

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord, because we must all appear before the judgment throne of Christ, and because we must not be found in sin when He returns, and above all, because He Himself has shed His blood to grant us pardon and to seal us for that Day, let us draw near with sincere hearts to confess our sins to Him, and to plead for the mercy He Himself has bought for us.

Lord Jesus Christ, our Judge and our Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore, we flee to find refuge in Your holy wounds, looking and pleading for Your grace now and on the Day of Judgment.

Merciful Savior, You bore our judgment on the cross to save us from damnation. Have mercy on us and forgive us all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, so that we may await Your coming with joy, stand before You without fear, and by Your grace alone enter with You into the endless world to come. Amen.

The Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

Amen.

THE INTROIT

2 Peter 3:13 NIV; Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8. 12

In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
the home of righteousness.

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!

Behold, You have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before You.

And now, O LORD, for what do I wait?
My hope is in You.

Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace at my tears!
For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers.

THE GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

THE KYRIE

Mark 10:47

**Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory to God on high:
**and on earth peace, good will toward men.
We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,
we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.
For You only are holy; You only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 95:1–7a; antiphon: v. 7a

He is our God,

and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation!

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In His hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are His also.

The sea is His, for He made it,

and His hands formed the dry land.

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For He is our God,

and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

He is our God,

and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

from the Letters: 1 Corinthians 15:20–28

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31–46

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE LITANY CREED

He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

Refrain: I believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

*As the lightning flashes from east to west, the Son of Man will come in His Father's glory with His holy angels to reward everyone according to what each has done. He will come like a thief in the night; one will be taken and the other left. **Refrain***

*The skies will disappear with a roar, the elements will disintegrate in the heat, and the earth and everything on it will be burned. **Refrain***

*He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call and gather His chosen from the four winds. We will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. **Refrain***

*We will all stand before Christ's judgment seat. Each of us will give an account of himself to God. **Refrain***

*He will say to those on His left, "Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." **Refrain***

*He will say to those on his right, "Come, you blessed of My Father! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world." **Refrain***

*He will change our lowly bodies to be like His own glorious body; we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **Refrain***

*We look for new heavens and a new earth, the home of righteousness. Then the righteous shall shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom, and we shall be with the Lord forever, whose kingdom shall have no end. **Refrain***

*Great, we confess, is the mystery of our faith: Jesus died. **Jesus died.***

*Jesus rose! **Jesus rose!***

*Jesus will come again! **Jesus will come again!***

I believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.



1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is
 2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords Is
 3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The
 4 To them the cross, with all its shame, With



crowned with glo - ry now; A roy - al di - a -
 His, is His by right, The King of kings and
 Joy of all be - low, To whom He man - i -
 all its grace, is giv'n; Their name an ev - er -



dem a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.
 Lord of lords, And heav'n's e - ter - nal Light;
 fests His love And grants His name to know.
 last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.

5 They suffer with their Lord below,
 They reign with Him above,
 Their profit and their joy to know
 The myst'ry of His love.

6 The cross He bore is life and health,
 Though shame and death to Him:
 His people's hope, His people's wealth,
 Their everlasting theme.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Matthew 25:31–46

THE OFFERTORY HYMN – TEXT & TUNE: LSB 508, ST. 7

**O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation;
 We often tremble on our way in fear and tribulation.**

**O hear and grant our fervent plea:
 Come, mighty judge, and set us free from death and ev'ry evil.**

Text: Public domain

Note: The offering of tithes and gifts will take place as you come forward for Holy Communion

The Prayer of the Church

*Each petition concludes with:
Let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.*

THE PREFACE

*The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.*

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

It is good and right that we do.

THE PROPER PREFACE

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

The Words of Institution

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

THE PAX DOMINI

John 20:19

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI

John 1:29

O Christ, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

Holy Communion

> All who receive Holy Communion here must first be instructed. Our pastor will be very glad to instruct you. Please contact the office for an appointment. Those who have not been instructed may come forward with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.

For those who will be receiving Holy Communion, please follow the directions of the hosts and pastor.

During the distribution, silently pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ present and absent, for those in need, for your own family and friends, and for yourselves. <

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Luke 2:29–32

**Now, Lord, You dismiss Your servant in peace, as You have promised,
for my eyes have seen the Salvation You prepared before the face of all people,
a Light to enlighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

THE THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1

*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
And His mercy endures forever.*

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

*Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

THE BENEDICAMUS

[Psalm 103:1]

Bless we the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN—TEXT & TUNE: LSB 680

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Thine the amen Thine the praise
Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story
Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup
Is lifted up lifted up.</p> | <p>3 Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing
Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving
Evermore evermore.</p> |
| <p>2 Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree
All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing
Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying
What was loss lifted high.</p> | <p>4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise
Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story
Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing
At Thy feast at Thy feast.</p> |
| <p>5 Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.</p> | |

Note on the Last Sunday of the Church Year

also called Christ the King Sunday or The Sunday of the Second Coming

Yes, we Christians even have our own calendar! It starts on the First Sunday in Advent and goes through the Last Sunday of the Church Year, which is today.

The first half of the Church year, from Advent through Pentecost, we call “the Lord’s half-year” because it’s all about what Jesus *did*: from His first coming to Bethlehem to His pouring out the Lord Holy Spirit from heaven. It’s all about how He was born for us on Christmas, how He shone out here in Epiphany, how He suffered for us in Lent, how He died for us on Good Friday, how He rose again for us on Easter, then ascended into heaven as one of us, and finally poured out the wind and fire of the Spirit on His apostles for our sake. We spend an entire half-year studying and celebrating what Jesus Christ did for us once and for all, and we do it every year because we’ll never get done with how much He *did*.

The second half of the Church year, from Trinity Sunday through today, we call “the Church’s half-year” because it’s all about what Jesus *does* right now in the world in everybody who receives Him. It’s all about how He opens God to us and opens us to God and takes us in, that is, from the time He baptizes each of us and, through the Holy Spirit, gives us faith to receive all the forgiveness and eternal life He won and accomplished for us once and for all. It’s all about receiving His grace now and growing in grace now and spreading His grace now and sharing in the life of Jesus now. We spend an entire half year studying and celebrating what Jesus Christ *does* in us, and we do it every year because we’ll never get done with how much He still *does*.

And so it goes, Church year after Church year, round and round. You might think we were just going in circles, but then comes today, when we celebrate not just the last day of the Church Year but *the* Last Day of the world.

Because the truth is that we'll go round and round and round and round and *then* . . . we'll fly off suddenly into splendor when Jesus comes again. He'll end this whole creation and the whole new creation will start. Christians who've died will come from heaven with Him and rise from their graves alive and well, and we who are still alive will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord, to pass through the judgment safe with Him and then to enter, body and soul, what no one has ever seen or heard or imagined. Everything He *did* for us, once for all, and everything He *does* in us now—it's all for this. It's all for the moment when we see with our own eyes Christ the King—already reigning—and start the life we were made for. Everything Jesus did and everything He does—the Sunday of the Second Coming shouts what He did and does it all for.

Christ the King Sunday reminds us that things don't just go on and on. They stop. And then they start. The Last Sunday of the Church Year is practice for the Last Day of earth. It's a wedding rehearsal, one which could very well be interrupted by a trumpet blast and the Beginning of All Things New.

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared . . . "

Titus 3:4

*As one Church Year ends, we move forward into a new one,
waiting in eager expectation for our Lord's return.
For more on the Church Year, see the next page.*

Thanksgiving Eve

Vespers Service • Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 pm

Sunday Advent Services

Sundays • November 29; December 6, 13, 20
Divine Services at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 6:00 pm

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays • December 2, 9, & 16
Services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm

Services of the Christmas Season

Christmas Eve Vespers • 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols • 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Divine Service • 11:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas, December 27
Divine Services at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 6:00 pm

The Second Sunday after Christmas, January 3
Divine Services at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 6:00 pm

God's People at Prayer

For Home Devotions

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Readings from Holy Scripture

*These may be read in the morning and evening, as suggested
here, or in any way that best works with your schedule.*

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Su	Daniel 2:24–49	Revelation 19:1–21
M	Daniel 3:1–30	Revelation 20:1–15
Tu	Daniel 4:1–37	Revelation 21:1–8
W	Daniel 5:1–30	Revelation 21:9–27
Th	Daniel 6:1–28	Revelation 22:1–21
F	Isaiah 1:1–28	1 Peter 1:1–21
Sa	Isaiah 2:1–22	1 Peter 1:13–25

The Apostles' Creed

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.

What is the Apostles' Creed? I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence 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 body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

From the Large Catechism: Although the whole world has sought painstakingly to learn what God is and what he thinks and does, yet it has never succeeded in the least. But here you have everything in richest measure. In these three articles God himself has revealed and opened to us the most profound depths of his fatherly heart, his sheer, unutterable love. He created us for this very purpose, to redeem and sanctify us. Moreover, having bestowed upon

us everything in heaven and on earth, he has given us his Son and his Holy Spirit, through whom he brings us to himself. . . . [In short,] the Creed tells what God does for us and gives to us.

Luther's Small Catechism © 1986 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org;
LC II.63–64, 67

Daily Prayer

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

The following topics may guide your prayer each day.

- Su For the joy of the resurrection among us
- M For one's calling and daily work, coworkers, and the unemployed
- Tu For deliverance against temptation and evil; for all who suffer and are afflicted
- W For immediate, extended, and church family; for our schools, communities, and neighborhoods
- Th For the Church and her pastors, all who serve in the congregation, and missionaries
- F For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the sick and dying
- Sa For faithfulness to the end; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word

The Lord's Prayer

Collect of the Week

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings for the First Sunday in Advent, Nov. 29

Isaiah 64:1–9; Ps. 80:1–7; 1 Cor. 1:3–9; Mark 11:1–10