

Sunday, December 1, 2024 – First Sunday in Advent

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

14-15 - The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.

2 Samuel 7: 16 – Your house, kingdom, and throne shall be made sure forever.

15-16 - He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Isaiah 11 –

1 – A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 – The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

4 – With righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

6 – The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together.

Former bishop of ELCA's Metro Chicago Synod – "Is there green in the stem?"

Psalm 25: 1-10 – Of David

5 - Lead me in your truth and teach me; in you have I trusted all the day long.

7 - Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Acts 17: 1-10 – Paul and Silas came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplace they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also." That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea.

How do you feel and react when people and/or circumstances turn your world upside down?

9 - How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

10 - Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

12 - May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

13 - May he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Gospel: Luke 21: 25-36

5-6 – When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

7 – They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?”

Matthew 24: 3 – When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

12 – Before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

17 – You will be hated by all because of my name.

20 – When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.

24 – They will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

25-26 - There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 - Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory.

Daniel 7: 13 – I saw one like a human being (one like a son of man) coming with the clouds of heaven. He came to the Ancient One. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship.

28 - When these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

29-31 - Then he told them a parable: Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 - Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

33 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34-35 - Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

36 - Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

Matthew 24: 37-39 – For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.