

# First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

## The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

## The First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

## Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon 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 of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?

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; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 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 Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "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."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Announcements

### Birthdays this month

1st: Laura Newsom  
 1st: Lincoln Randell  
 2nd: Connie Fedrizzi  
 2nd: Susan Schug  
 6th: Gloria Akinson  
 6th: Janet Sue Whetzel  
 7th: Isabella Newsom  
 14th: Becky Supercinski  
 21st: Ron Raif  
 26th: Jeff Richardson  
 27th: Don King  
 28th: Kayla Smith  
 31st: John Dawes

## This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, December 10, 2023

9:00 am Bible Study

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

### Poinsettia Dedications

If you would like to provide a Poinsettia for the Sanctuary, please fill out the form located in the narthex and place in the offering plate. Suggested donation: \$20.00 per Poinsettia. Please indicate "Poinsettia" on your check

### UPCOMING in DECEMBER

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, after the service**

Family tree decorating party, bring a family ornament.

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 4-8PM**

Church Christmas Party at Bryan & Charlyne White's Home. Bring Hors D'oeuvres

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, after the service**

Church decorating party, preparing the church for the Christmas Eve evening service. Need volunteers to help.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Evening service**

Christmas Carols will begin at **5:45 PM** and service will begin at **6:00 PM**.

## Prayer Requests

### Healing For:

- Bill Magee
- The Akinson & Brown Families
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: [prayer@smaalongview.org](mailto:prayer@smaalongview.org)

**\*\* Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. \*\***

### Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
11/05/23	\$14,190	\$2,939	\$11,251
11/12/23	\$2,064	\$2,939	-\$875
11/19/23	\$2,399	\$2,939	-\$540
11/26/22	\$1,237	\$2,939	-\$1,702
<b>YTD TOTALS</b>	<b>\$158,959</b>	<b>\$141,065</b>	<b>\$17,894</b>

## NEXT Sunday's Servers (12/10)

Acolytes: Joe Frank Brown

Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown

Danny's Team: Diane Buffington

Eucharistic Ministers: David Brown

Greeter: Michael Greathouse

Lector: Amy Brown

Nursery Helper: Mary Lynn Dawes

Ushers: Donna Richardson

Vestry People: Roxanne Brink, Connie Fedrizzi

Worship Tech: Melinda Smith

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll

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