

Weekly Meditation on Isaiah 64



Advent Midweek Devotions December 2, 9, & 16 2020

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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VESPERS

Adapted from the Lutheran Service Book, “vespers” is a Latin word meaning “evening.” Originally one of eight daily offices prayed during the Middle Ages, Vespers was retained at the time of the Reformation as one of two chief daily services, the other being Matins (Morning Prayer). “Sunset marks the end of the day and also the beginning of the next day so that the days roll on without interruption. The hours of darkness are experienced as a time of waiting and watching... the unknown, isolation, fear, death, night... but also stillness, rest, peace, and promise. In Christ, the grave is transformed into the morning of new and unending life” (quotes from Journey into the Heart of God).



Opening Words

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Praise to You, O Christ,

C: Lamb of our salvation.

Psalm Reading (Responsive)

Psalm 80:1-7 (ESV)

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

C: you who lead Joseph like a flock!

P: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

C: stir up your might and come to save us!

P: Restore us, O God;

C: let your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: O LORD God of hosts,

C: how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

P: You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**C: You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

P: Restore us, O God;

C: let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Psalm Prayer →

Psalm Prayer

P: Lord God, you so tend the vine you planted that now it extends its branches even to the farthest shore. Keep us in your Son as branches on the vine, that, rooted firmly in your love, we may testify before the whole world to your great power working everywhere; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...*(Pastor prays that week's Collect)*...for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Confession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.—And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. —And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Nicene Creed

Prayer for the Word

LSB 230

P: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

P: Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Amen.**

Advent Reading for Weekly Meditation

Isaiah 64(ESV)

Lay Reader: Mario Colon

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.
⁵[Oh that you would] meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

¹⁰Your holy cities have become a wilderness;
Zion has become a wilderness,
Jerusalem a desolation.

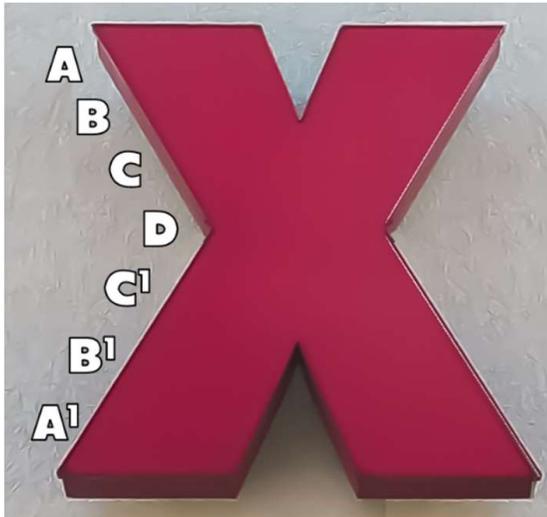
¹¹Our holy and beautiful house,
where our fathers praised you,
has been burned by fire,
and all our pleasant places have become ruins.

¹²Will you restrain yourself at these things, O LORD?
Will you keep silent, and afflict us so terribly?

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Devotion

December 2	Isaiah 64:1-5a — “Oh that you would”
December 9	Isaiah 64:5b-7 — “You were angry”
December 16	Isaiah 64:8-12 — “But now”



Chiasm (or chiastic structure)

is when an author communicates using symmetry. The term *chiasm* comes from the shape the corresponding parts form when you diagram them; they look like the left side of the Greek letter *chi* (X). Often, an author’s point hinges on the center of the structure. Chiasms can be as short as a sentence or phrase. Chiasms can also be much longer, shaping an entire narrative, poem, or even book. (Ashby)

Prayers of the Church

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C: *and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

P: Merciful Father, whose guiding hand has brought us to the completion of this day, we humbly pray You to stay with us and shelter us in quiet hours of this night that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this passing world, may rest in Your changeless peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

P: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of other with confidence and compassion; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

P: Gracious Lord, we give You thanks for the day, especially for the good we were

permitted to give and to receive. The day is now past, and we commit it to You. We entrust to You the night and rest in Your peace, for You are our help, and You neither slumber nor sleep. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Let us pray together.

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Silence for meditation)

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: 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.

Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: Amen.**



Acknowledgments

Adapted from “Vespers” in *Lutheran Service Book*.

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Chiastic structure description by Chad Ashby (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-should-i-preach-chiasms/>)



DECEMBER 2020 WORSHIP SCHEDULE



December 2 – Advent Midweek Devotion – 6:30PM

December 6 - Livestream Worship - 9AM

Advent Bible Study 10:15AM – 11AM

Indoor Communion 11:15AM – Noon

December 9 - Advent Midweek Devotion – 6:30PM

December 13 - Livestream Worship - 9AM

Advent Bible Study 10:15AM – 11AM

December 16 - Advent Midweek Devotion – 6:30PM

December 20 - Livestream Worship - 9AM

Advent Bible Study 10:15AM – 11AM

Indoor Communion 11:15AM - Noon

December 24 – Christmas Eve Livestream Worship – 6:30PM

December 25 – Christmas Day Livestream Worship – 10AM

Indoor Communion 11:15AM – Noon

December 27 - Livestream Worship - 9AM

Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht – Organists

Ann Souza - Music Director

Mandi Diver – Choir/New Music Accompanist

David Ziegler - Handbell Director

Contact the office if you have any questions about the schedule. Ushers are always needed for indoor communion. If you are interested in being an usher contact elders@bethelgurnee.org or Katrina Johns at katrina@bethelgurnee.org .

