



St. Luke Lutheran Church • 8:30AM • December 6, 2020
The 2nd Sunday in Advent

Prelude: *“Prepare Ye the Way” 2X* written by Debbi St. John

**Prepare ye the way for the Savior is coming; prepare ye the way for the babe in the stall.
Prepare ye the way, for the Savior is coming. He is coming to bring salvation to us all.**

Greeting: L: 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.**

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand as you are able)*

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. C: **Amen.**

L: The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God’s mercy. *Silence for reflection and self examination.*

L: Almighty God,

C: We confess that we have sinned against you, and against our sisters and brothers. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us. Amen

L: In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you, and forgives you all your sins. C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: *(you may be seated)* *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* vs. 3,4 #257

Verse 3: O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai’s height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Verse 4: O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan’s tyranny; From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Advent Reflection *read by Madison Poston*

Last Sunday we lit the first candle – the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

Advent Prayer *read by Madison Poston:*

*Peace - Dear God, As we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace.
Peace in our hearts, Peace in our homes, Peace in our communities. Amen.*

Lighting of Advent Candles & Hymn: *“Light one candle to watch for Messiah”* vs. 2 #240

**Verse 2: Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway" #264

Verse 1: Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Verse 2: God's people, see him coming; your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout & sing! God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! [refrain]

Verse 3: Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him: their voices join your singing: [refrain]

Verse 4: His is no earthly kingdom: it comes from heav'n above. His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: [refrain]

Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading *read by Maison Poston:* **Isaiah 40:1-11** ¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; [a] lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, [b] lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Gospel Acclamation: "Celtic Alleluia" (Stand as you are able) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. 2X

L: The holy gospel according to.... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8 *(Please stand as you are able)* ¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon: (you may be seated)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" #490

Verse 1: Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descending, comes full homage to demand.

Verse 2: King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Verse 3: Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descending from the realms of endless day, comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish, as the darkness clears away.

Verse 4: At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Apostles' Creed: 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, & 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, & he will come to judge the living & 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, & the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers: (call and response)

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. *A brief silence.* Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace, especially for; Dan Ramthun, David Roschen, John Diercks, Ava Dicke, Jim Howard, Brad Roschen, Naomi Berland, Nathlye Benrud, Donald Hadler, Nancy & Donald Nord, Dean Kirkland, Marlene & Lloyd Roschen, Finley Budensiek, Lauren Brown, Hunter Burow, JoAnn Buck, Amber Bien, Cassidy Post, Brent Hokanson & Karl Thomforde. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, & receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace: L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering & Doxology: *"Praise Him, Praise Him All Ye Little Children"* vs.1

Verse 1: Praise Him praise Him All ye little children, God is love God is love Praise Him praise Him,
All ye little children God is love God is love

Offertory Prayer:

P: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C: **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Salutation

Hymn: "Away In The Manger" #277

Verse 1: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Verse 2: The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; Look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Verse 3: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay. Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer: 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; & forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; & lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, & the power, and the glory, forever & ever. Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. 2X

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Blessing and Communion Prayer: Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. C: Amen.

Blessing (please stand as you are able)

L: May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Go Tell It On The Mountain" #290

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 1: While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. [Refrain]

Verse 2: The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Verse 3: Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Dismissal L: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.
C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

"Go In Peace" 3X written by Debbi St. John

Go In Peace And serve the Lord your God. Sow the seeds about the man of love.

Go into the world and tell them One by one. Go tell them what Jesus has done

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