

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Woodbury, Minnesota

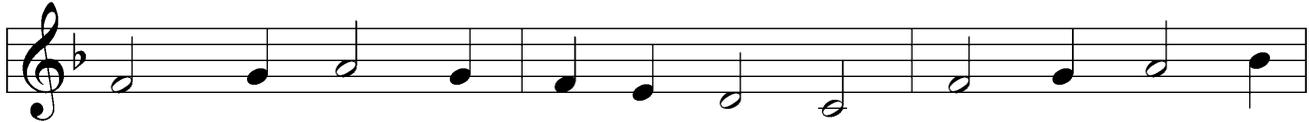
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020 | 11:00 AM

ONLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020 | SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

RINGING OF THE BELL | WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” [LSB 347], vs. 1–3



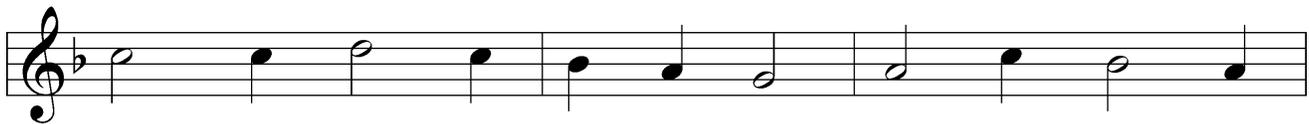
1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.

Public domain

INVOCATION | OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The grass withers,

People: the flower fades,

All: but the word of our God will stand forever.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: and illumine Your Church.

Pastor: Today we re-light the candle of **HOPE**. Now we light the candle for the second Sunday in Advent. This is called the candle of **PEACE**.

People: As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and peace.

SONG DURING LIGHTING

“We Light the Advent Candle” vs. 2

We light the Advent candle And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Gracious God, grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and in our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and in the countries of the world. Help us to see the paths of peace in our lives, and then give us courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that You only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS | ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will 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 like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. ¹⁴So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

John the Baptist Prepares the Way . . . ¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"— ³a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" ⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

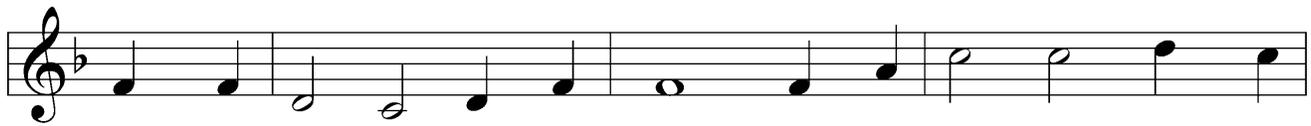
"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" [LSB 849]



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Tune: Public domain | Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002982

SERMON

“Rising From Slavery” Exodus 1–19

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

ALL: 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

*[online at <https://stjohnwoodbury.org/give> ~ or ~
 via U.S. mail to SJLC, 1975 St. Johns Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129]*

THE PRAYERS

Pastor: Lord in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION *[in-person only]*

COMMUNION DISMISSAL

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

People: **Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

SEND—OFF PRAYER

ALL: Knowing that the time is drawing near, may I by Your Spirit's prompting, support the mission and ministry of my church with my personal witness, my earnest prayers and my sacrificial gifts. Grant that through me, many may be saved from the kingdom of darkness for the kingdom of Your Light, through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

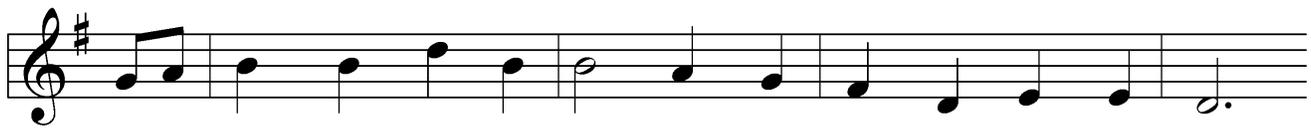
"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" [LSB 515] vs. 1, 2 & 4



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Public Domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS | DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Traditional Worship | 8:00 am
Contemporary Worship | 10:30 am
+ Education Time | 9:15 am +



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

1975 St. Johns Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129

Phone: 651-436-6621



stjohn@stjohnwoodbury.org

www.stjohnwoodbury.org

pastor@stjohnwoodbury.org

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation