

# St. John Lutheran Church, ELCA

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December 6, 2020 9 AM 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent



*Prepare*

THE WAY OF THE LORD

MARK 1:3

**Gathering Music**

**Welcome and Announcements**

# Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit... let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God, **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news... May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

#260 The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

# Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus,  
born\_ to set thy peo - ple free; from our  
sins and fears re - lease us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born\_ to set thy peo - ple free; from our sins and fears re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.' The music ends with a double bar line.

Advent is marked by a spirit of yearning for peace.

**May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.**

We long today for peace among nations.

**May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.**

We long today for peace among races.

**May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.**

We long today for peace in our hearts and in our lives.

**May the world be filled with the peace of Christ.**

## 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.

## Word

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### First Reading

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak 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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every 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.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,

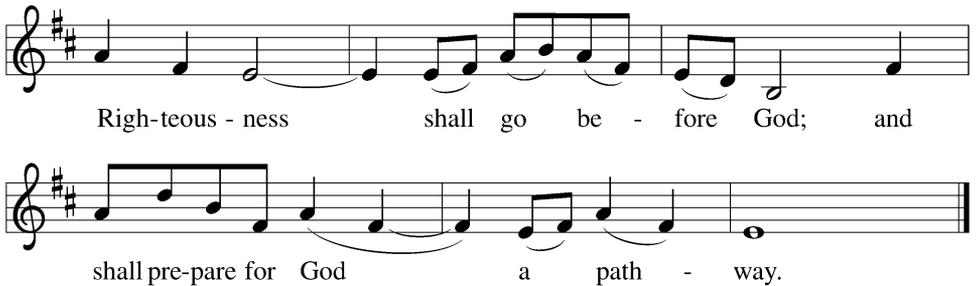
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 85



Righ-teous - ness shall go be - fore God; and  
shall pre-pare for God a path - way.

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins. **Refrain**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who  
turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land. **Refrain**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway. **Refrain**

## Second Reading

*2 Peter 3:8-15a*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## Gospel

*Mark 1:1-8*

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He 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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Children’s Message**

### **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day**

#256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## Presentation of New Members

Dear friends...

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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, and 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, and he will come to judge the living and 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, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ...

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

The Assembly responds, **“Your mercy is great.”**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

## **Musical Offering**

An Advent Meditation

*setting, David Lasky*

## **Offertory Prayer**

**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. Amen.**

## **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; 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.**

## **Sending**

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# Blessing

## Sending Song

Let There Be Peace On Earth

### Verse 1

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father brothers all are we.  
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

### Verse 2

Let peace begin with me let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow.  
To take each moment and live each moment  
In peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**