



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2020 - 10:00 AM



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of her Aunt Beth on her birthday by Amanda Cook.

SERVING TODAY

Preaching & Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Pianist

Susan J. Crowell
Amy Brown
Jim Parham

Cantor

Ann Coon

Lectors

Sue Boeker
Mark Godfrey

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
by Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME

Stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together 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:

by God's endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,

† comforted by Christ's peace,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for
angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for
soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts
together, he opens wide the heav'nly door and
lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a singing, his humble song is
quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving
kindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to
shatter all hatred and blindness.**

**In darkest night his coming shall be, when
all the world is despairing, as morning light so
quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap
in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and
weapons be broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though
dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall
crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless
story; may God fill ev'ry day we share and
bring us at last into glory.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen

Refrain

***Be strong, fear not. Here is your God. Be strong, fear not. Here is your God.
Be strong, fear not. Here is your God who comes to save us.***

**Climb to the highest mountain,
Walk in the path of light,
All nations shall join together,
Rejoice and sing!** *Refrain*

**The wolf shall befriend the small lamb,
The leopard shall rest with the kid.
The calf and the lion shall follow
The child who guides.** *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem's heart,
and tell it

that its time of service is ended,
that its iniquity is atoned for,

that it has received from the LORD's hand
double punishment for all its 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;

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!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and rules with a strong arm;

You bring your reward with you,

and your reparation comes before you

¹¹Like a shepherd you feed your flock,

gathering the lambs and hold them close,

and leading mother ewes with gentleness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm
Refrain

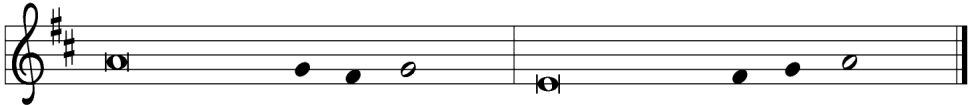


Righ - teous - ness shall pre -



pare a path - way for God.

Psalm
Tone



PSALM

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

*The refrain is introduced by the cantor
Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.*

- ¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.
- ²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**
- ⁸I 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.
- ⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land. R**
- ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
- ¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**
- ¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.
- ¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R**

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from Second Peter

⁸This point must not be overlooked, dear friends: in the eyes of the Most High, one day is like a thousand years, and thousand years are like a day. ⁹God does not delay in keeping the promise, as some mean “delay.” Rather, God shows you generous patience, desiring that no one perish but all come to repentance. ¹⁰The day of our God will come like a thief, and on that day the heavens will vanish with a roar; the elements will catch fire and fall apart, and the earth and all its works will be destroyed in the flames.

¹¹Since everything is to be destroyed in this way, what holy and devoted lives you should lead! ¹²Look for the coming of the Day of God, and try to hasten it along. Because of it, the heavens will be destroyed in flames and the elements will melt away in a blaze. ¹³But what we await are new heavens and a new earth where, according to the promise, God’s justice will reside.

¹⁴So beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found at peace and without stain or defilement in God’s sight. ^{15a}Consider our God’s patience as your opportunity for salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS’ SERMON

Stories of Christmas

Stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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,
clear a straight path’”

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 the One to come will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

God’s Alternative Future

Stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Earth Is Hopeful

#266

**All earth is hopeful, the savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God’s creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God’s truth and justice set ev’rybody free.**

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”; she
conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev’ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

**We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered in our homes on this second Sunday of Advent, let us pray for this weary world.

Come to the church, O faithful God. Assist our bishop, our pastors, our deacons and all who minister in the church. Show us what is your way and where are your paths and awaken all the baptized to the guidance of your Holy Spirit. O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to the Jewish people, O covenant God, at this their festival of Hanukkah. End the world's anti-Semitism and bring peace to Jerusalem. O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to the earth, O creating God. As the seasons change, protect all that lives. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to the nations, O sovereign God. Inspire governmental officials to strive for peace within their land and between countries. Remember the people of Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Guide the nations towards cooperative efforts when facing global issues.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to our country, O righteous God. Teach us how to end discrimination and to value diversity. Bring political parties into helpful conversation with each other. Assist the unemployed and uphold people with physical and intellectual disabilities.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to all who are facing the coronavirus, O compassionate God. Protect the vulnerable. Heal the sick. Embrace the dying. Sustain medical workers. Prepare a vaccine. End this scourge. O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to all who suffer, O merciful God. Empower us to feed the hungry in our nation and around the world. Gather into your healing embrace those who are afraid, lonely, sick, or struggling with depression. We pray especially for O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come, O tender-hearted God, to each one of us, and receive our silent prayers.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to us, O eternal God, as you came to the saints. We remember especially St. Nicholas in his care for children, and those we name before you now: . . . Bring us with them through our wilderness into the fulfillment of your promises. O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you.

☒ **Peace be with you.**

Worshippers are invited to use their phones to text now or make a call later today to extend a message of peace to someone you love and care about.

Sit

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256,
or by following the link on the homepage of the website, www.trinitylutheran.ws.
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

What is the Crying at Jordan?

Words: Carol Christopher Drake, Irish melody

OFFERTORY HYMN

What Feast of Love

#487

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?

What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the sun come down from heaven.

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?

What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

Stand as able

Let us pray. 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

Sit

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.

*Worshippers who gather with family at home are invited to share the bread and wine with each other using these words spoken directly to each person, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you."
Worshippers who are gathering with the community from their individual homes are invited to receive the bread and wine while saying these words, "The body of Christ given for me," and "The blood of Christ shed for me."*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

#249

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces
that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken,
for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the
way for God within, and let us all our
hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge
and our great reward; without your grace we
waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face
upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent
has our freedom won, whom with the Father
we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Stand as able

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST 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.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

#256

**“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.**

**For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.**

**Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

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