

## *Second Sunday in Advent - December 6, 2020*

**Today's Theme for Worship:** John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ by preaching repentance. We also prepare our hearts as we wait for Christ to return.

### **Order of Service: Service of Word and Sacrament**

#### **Gathering Rite:**

#### **We Wait in Hope**

#### **Special Music sings:**

All Creation lies in waiting,  
in the stillness of the night,  
with hope anticipating  
the Advent of Eternal Light.

M: Advent is a time to watch.

**C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

M: During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

**C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

M: During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.

**C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

M: During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

**C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

M: During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.

**C: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.**

M: This morning we light two candles. The **first candle** reminds us that Advent is a time of waiting. We wait in anticipation for God to fulfill every promise set forth in the Bible. The **second candle** reminds us that Advent is also a time of watching. We watch with expectant eyes, trusting that God is active, present and constantly at work, leading all of creation toward the plan of redemption. As we light the second candle we ask for faith to watch for God's presence and open eyes to see all that God is doing.

#### *Refrain (congregation)*

We watch in hope for the morning Light,  
For the love of Christ to illuminate the night.  
We watch with joy for the Savior's birth;  
We watch in hope for peace on earth.

### **Order of Service: Service of Word and Sacrament**

P: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

#### **Confession of Sins**

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mer-cy.**

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: ♪ Christ, have mer-cy.**

P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mer-cy.**

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: ♪ A-men.**

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

### **♪ O Lord, Our Lord**

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.  
Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father,  
you crown our life with your love.

You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;  
you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight.  
You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.  
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther,  
you came to live with us;  
you made your Fa-ther known;  
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!  
O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us Pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 🎵 A-men.

## First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley will be raised up,  
and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level,  
and the rough places will become a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

<sup>6</sup>A voice was saying, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

<sup>7</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade,  
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade,  
but the Word of our God endures forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get up on a high mountain,  
O Zion, you herald of good news.

Lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.

Lift it up! Do not be afraid!

Say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>Look, God the LORD will come with strength,  
and his arm is ruling for him.

Look, his reward is with him.

The result of his work is in front of him.

<sup>11</sup>Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.  
With his arm he will gather the lambs.  
He will lift them up on his lap.  
He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

## **Psalm of the Day – Psalm 85**

### ***Refrain***

I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

You showed favor to your land, O LORD;\*  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people\*  
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,\*  
and grant us your salvation.

### ***Refrain***

I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;\*  
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,\*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;\*  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**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.**

### ***Refrain***

I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

## **Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For 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 to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

### **Verse:**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare the way for you.

<sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make his paths straight.”

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>6</sup>John was clothed in camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! <sup>8</sup>I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

## **Hymn of the Day: 16 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry**

1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come, then, and listen, for he brings  
Good news about the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin  
And furnished for a guest within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 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.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
And lift us up to fall no more.  
Oh, make your face on us to shine,  
And fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.

### **Sermon: Matthew 3:1-8**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

### **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Offering Prayer**

Electronic Giving! You can give your offerings from your smartphone with the GivePlusChurch app, which can be downloaded for free at Google Play or the App Store. You can also give at [holytrinitylutheranwyoming.com](http://holytrinitylutheranwyoming.com) by clicking the Offerings link at the top of the page or scan the QR code below. If you have any questions about any of these options, please contact Dave Conrad at [dconrad765@gmail.com](mailto:dconrad765@gmail.com) or 616-406-7172



### **Prayer of the Church**

#### **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.**

### **The Sacrament**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** 🎵 And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: ♪ We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a king to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

### **♪ Holy, Holy, Holy**

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

You are my God, and I will ex-alt you.  
I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-va-tion.  
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

### **Words of Institution**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: ♪ A-men.**

### **♪ O Christ, Lamb Of God**

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

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

O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace.  
A-men.

## Thank the Lord

Thank the Lord and sing his praise.  
Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re-joyce  
And proud-ly bear his name.

He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth  
in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

## Prayer

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: A-men.**

## Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

**C: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: 36 A Great and Mighty Wonder

1 A great and mighty wonder, A glorious mystery:  
A virgin bears an infant Who veils his deity.

*Refrain:*

Repeat the hymn again:

“To God on high be glory And peace on earth to men.”

2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,  
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.

*Refrain*

3 While thus they sing your monarch, Those bright angelic bands,  
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.

*Refrain*

4 Since all he comes to ransom, By all be he adored,  
The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord.

*Refrain*

5 All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise his scepter, Decreeing endless peace.  
*Refrain*

Text: Germanus, c. 634-734; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.