



# Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ***

**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2017**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who comes to wake us from sleep, who  
leads us into the light of grace.

**C: Amen.**



P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. (A brief silence.)  
God of all time,

**C: We confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**



**P:** Comfort, o comfort my people, says your God.  
In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all  
things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

**C: Amen.**



# **OPENING HYMN “*Prepare the Royal Highway*”**

**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!***



**God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you!**

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





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



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



**P:** 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.**



# INTRODUCTION

P: John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones.



Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!” We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

**C: Amen.**



# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**P:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen.**



# ADVENT HYMN, LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.

*Refrain*



Re-joice! Re - joice!



Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.



# PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

**C:** **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**







# Children's Church



## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

A reading from Isaiah, the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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.



Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” 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. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.



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!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 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.



R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# A Responsive Reading From Psalm 85

**R:** You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**C:** **You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**



R: 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.

**C: Truly, your salvation is very near to those  
who fear you, that your glory may dwell in  
our land.**



R: Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**C: Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**



R: The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

**C: Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**





## **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

A reading from 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

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. 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.



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. 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, 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?



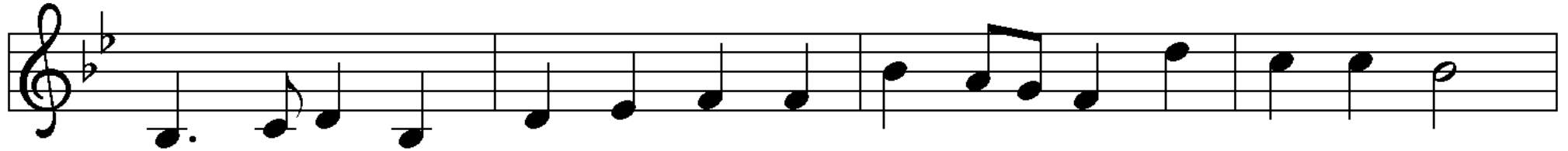
But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

**R:** Word of God, word of life.

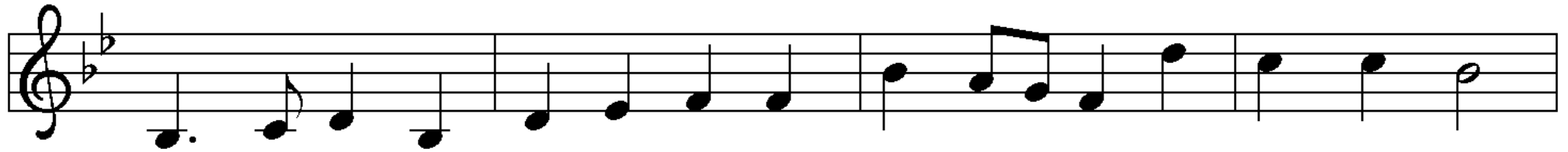
**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



# "Alleluia"



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.



## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

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

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.



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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**



# SERMON

## “Counter-Cultural Preparation”



## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

***“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”***

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.**





**Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**



# **THE 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, 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.**



# Prayers of Intercession

**P:** Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people. (*A brief silence.*) We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*).  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**





**P:** We give thanks for those who are ready to help in times of crisis. Give courage to disaster and emergency response teams, police officers, nurses, doctors, surgeons, chaplains, and all who work for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



# SHARING PEACE

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**



**~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~**

**“Prepare Ye the Way”  
by Doug & Jude Krehbiel**



# **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**We give thee but thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**May we they bounties thus,  
As stewards true receive,  
And gladly, as though blessed us,  
To thee our first fruits give.**



# OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith may shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

**C:** Amen.



# DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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





# WORDS OF INSTITUTION



# **THE 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.**



# ~ COMMUNION ~



# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



# BLESSING

**P:** May Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C:** Amen.



# **CLOSING HYMN “Choral Benediction”**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May it show us where to travel,**

**lead us back if we should stray.**

**May the light of God shine on us today.**



**May the love of God live in us today.  
May the love of God live in us today.  
May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.  
May the love of God live in us today.**



**May the peace of God be with us today.  
May the peace of God be with us today.  
May it guide us and protect us,  
as we go our separate ways.  
May the peace of God be with us today.**





# DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

























































