

Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 6, 2020 - Advent 2

Welcome *Today we would like to thank Noah Frey and Emily Coonjah for reading the lessons.*

Greeting

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.*

Call to Worship for Advent ~ written by John Birch, and posted on **Faith and Worship**.

http://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_John_the_Baptist.htm

In the lonely places
The wilderness
Where we stand forlorn
Windswept and alone
Your voice calls out
Prepare a way for the Lord

In the dark places
The shadows
Where we hide our fears
Embrace our tears
Your voice calls out
Prepare a way for the Lord

For the desert places in which we walk
The streets we roam
The paths we cross
Guide our feet

Take us to places
Where you would go
Give us words that you would use

That in this Advent season
Of promise and preparation
We might point the way with John the Baptist
To the Lamb of God!
Prepare a way for the Lord

Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer (Written by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson)

Light one candle for peace.

Because the world is broken and the wait is long, but we refuse to be frozen by fear.

Peace comes in fits and starts-

a deep breath

a courageous truth

a humble heart.

“Prepare the way,” she whispers, “for the Lord comes to make the broken whole.”

So we light one candle, because it only takes one:

Christ with us.

(Light the second candle on the advent wreath)

Song – Comfort, Comfort Now My People ¹

“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.

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.

The Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11

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 for ever.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 85:8-13

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people,

to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him,

and will make a path for his steps.

The Word of the Lord

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 1:1-8

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.' The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection

Song: Oh Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry²

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every 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.
O 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.

Prayers of the People

We pray: *Lord, in your mercy...* and respond: *Hear our prayer.*

Holy Communion (Zoom Only)

The Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us;

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Song – Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding³

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

See, the Lamb so long expected comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing, to the Father and the Son,
with the ever-lasting Spirit while unending ages run.

Dismissal

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

¹ ELW hymn #256 verses 1 & 3. Text: Johann G. Olearius. tr. Catherine Winkworth. Music: *Trente quatre pseames de David*, Geneva, 1551. In the Public Domain

² ELW hymn #249. Text: Charles Coffin. Music: European tune adapt. Michael Praetorius. In the Public Domain.

³ ELW hymn #246. Text: Latin hymn. tr. Edward Caswall. Music: William H. Monk. In the Public Domain.