

Second Sunday in Advent



10:00 am (online)
December 6, 2020
Zion Lutheran Church
Camas, Washington
360-834-4201 Office

Susan Dollinger, Associate Pastor

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets 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.

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: ***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.***

P: 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.**

Gathering Hymn "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" Number 435

- 1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain; thousand thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Now redemption, long-expected, comes in solemn splendor near; all the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! *See the day of God appear!*
- 3 Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom as thine own. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Mel & Karen Blair

We come to the wilderness searching and waiting for your light to appear. We wait with hope and wonder, with anticipation. We wait with a weariness of a difficult road that led us here. Our own wanderings have been filled with distractions that keep us from your path. Yet we return to you searching, praying. The first candle we light in preparation for the coming of the Lord. We stand on the edge of the darkness, searching for the light that illuminates our paths. The second candle we light in hope of the arrival of a baby king that brings light to the world.

Light two candles

We pray for all the nations to know your truth and your light. We pray for the poor, the hungry, and the needy, that they may be fed. And we pray for those who are spiritually hungry and poor in spirit, that they may drink deeply from your well. We pray for those who face Christmas alone, sick, or homeless. Jesus Christ, Light from true Light, shine your light into hearts where wilderness resides. Teach us to share this light, and to illuminate the path of our neighbor, bringing all to Christ, for the glory of the Lord. **Amen.**

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

v. 2 Number 240

- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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.³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."⁴ 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.⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."⁶ 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.⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.⁹ 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!"¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.¹¹ 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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

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

Responsive Reading Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
You have been gracious to your land, O Lord; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.² You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.⁸ 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.⁹ Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.¹⁰ Steadfast 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.¹² The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.¹³ Righteousness shall go before the Lord and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a
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.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ 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,¹² 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?¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;^{15a} and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

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

Special Music "O Thou That Tellest Glad Tidings to Zion" Handel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁵ 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.⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.⁷ 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.⁸ 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!***

Message

Pr. Susan Dollinger

1. 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!

2. 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*
3. 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*
4. 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*

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 the Church

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, especially those we remember aloud or in our hearts, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as you journey into this season. ***Amen.***

Please share a time of peace online with one another using the chat comments or with someone next to you or spend this time in prayer.

Prayer of Preparation

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them as we gather around your feast to give thanks for all that you have made. Prepare our hearts for this offering that we may share in this meal of grace, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

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.

Invitation to Communion

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

Benediction

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, in the name of the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. **Amen.**

SENDING

Sending Hymn *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"* Number 244

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

2. The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.
3. The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore, shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold; in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.
4. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Dismissal

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our thanks to this morning's musicians:

Pat Hagensen, Gary Ritter, Judy Swanson

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"Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending" Text: Charles Wesley;

Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" Text: Wayne L. Wold;

@1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music: TIF IN VELDELE,

Yiddish folk tune

"Prepare the Royal Highway" Text: Frans Mikael Franzén,

@1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress;

Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune

"O Thou That Tellest Glad Tidings to Zion"; Text: George Frideric Handel

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" Text: Laurentius Laurenti, tr. Sarah B.

Findlater; Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune