

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The First Sunday in Advent ☩ November 29, 2020 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music
Sarah Juhasz, Preacher Debra Myers, Musician Leader

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW* = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)

**PLEASE NOTE: We will not distribute paper copies of this Worship Guide. All will be projected on the screens.
If you would like, you could print a copy and home and bring it with you,**

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate to the number in your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." So in these days of required distancing, longing to share the Lord's Supper again soon physically together at one table of the Lord, we acknowledge communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space. This will be another form of that connection. We understand no precedents are being set in these unique times.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Miriam

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.**

ADVENT HYMN: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

ELW Hymn 256

- 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.**
- 2 **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 a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.**

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Public Domain

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☑ **Amen.**

LESSONS: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Ⓔ Today's Lesson is from Paul's first letter to the Christians at Corinth.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ⓔ The word of the Lord.

Ⓒ **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Light One Candle*

ELW Hymn 240

**1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:5-25

Ⓔ The Holy Gospel according Luke, the first chapter.

Ⓒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵"This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Ⓔ The Gospel of the Lord.

Ⓒ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Sarah Juhasz

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Blessed Be the God of Israel (The Song of Zechariah)*

ELW Hymn 250

- 1** Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.
- 2** With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.
- 3** My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

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OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** Let us confess our baptismal faith together.
- C** 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

*When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God." please respond, "your mercy is great."
The prayers are ended with these words, "Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." Please respond, "Amen."*

INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- 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 to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P** 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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
 "The body of Christ for you" and "The blood of Christ for you."*

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

ELW Hymn 254

- 1** 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.
- 2** 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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Public Domain

PASTORAL BLESSING

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.
- ☩** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Hark! The Glad Sound!*

ELW Hymn 239

- 1** Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
 let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2** He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
 The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.
- 3** He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
 and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.
- 4** Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
 and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Public Domain

DISMISSAL

- ☩** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- ☩** Thanks be to God.

Altar Guild: Pat Oliver, Pat Fry, and Vickie Dauenhauer

Tech crew: Joni Siepert, David and Sara Turk, Lindsay Eggen, Carol Jensen-Linton, Bill Porter, Brad Milburn

*Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Miriam and David Beecher,
 in thanksgiving for Christ Our Shepherd and its ministries.*