

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The Second Sunday in Advent ☩ December 6, 2020 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music

☐ = 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 Fritz

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: *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

ELW Hymn 249

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God 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.**
- 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. Composite 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ☑ **Amen.**

LESSONS: Isaiah 40:1-8

L Today's Lesson is from Isaiah, the fortieth chapter.

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.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every 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.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
 and all people shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
 And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
 surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
 but the word of our God will stand forever.

L The word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *He Came Down**ELW Hymn 253*

**He came down that we might have hope;
 He came down that we may have hope;
 He came down that we might have hope;
 hallelujah forevermore.**

Text: Cameroon traditional Public Domain

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according Mark, the first chapter.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

HYMN OF THE DAY: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

- 1** There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
 Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
 The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
 make straight all the crooked places where God, our God, may go!
- 2** O Jerusalem, herald good tidings, ascend to the heights and sing!
 Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their king.
 Like flow'rs of the field we perish, like grass our works decay;
 the pow'r and the pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. Public Domain

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;
 You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom
 you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
 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: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

ELW Hymn 246

- 1 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!"**
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.**

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878 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: *Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW Hymn 264

- 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!

- 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**

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. AF License

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: Linda Barbour

Tech crew: Lindsay Eggen, Carol Jensen-Linton, Brad Milburn, Will Friedrichs

*Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by the Hawkins family, Kevin, Laura, Thomas, and Matthew,
and by Gloria Wilkins in honor of her daughter, Maya.*