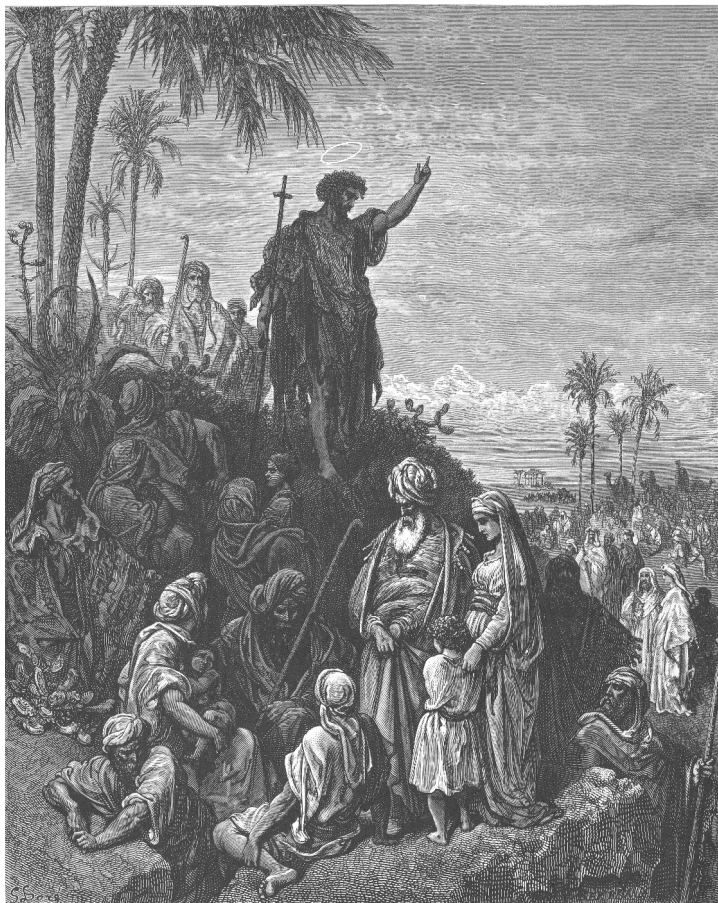


THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10th, 2023



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Louis, MO

Pastor Seth Georgson

314-914-6457

THE COMMON SERVICE

Gathering Rite

Sing the refrain the first time and then sing it as indicated.

Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.

Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Lord, we await your coming to our world;

Bring us the gift of salvation. ***Refrain***

Lord, you are hope and healing for our world;

Come, now, and bring us your good news. ***Refrain***

Come, O come, O Come, Emmanuel;

Come with us on earth here to dwell. ***Refrain***

Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber;

Banish the darkness of night. ***Refrain***

Child of the light and love beyond all telling,

Fill our hearts with wonder and praise. ***Stand for the final Refrain***

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

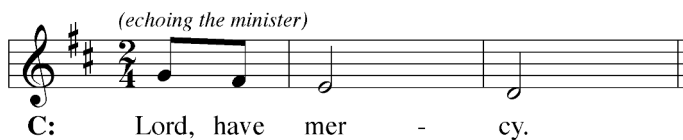
C: A - men.

Lord, Have Mercy

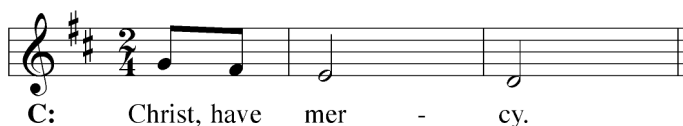
Kyrie

M: When the Lord Jesus comes again, all will see his salvation. It is good for us to be watchful and ready for his return.

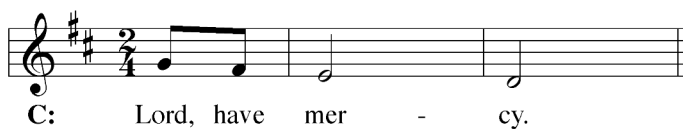
Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.



M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.



M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.



M: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.



Absolution

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory be to God

Gloria in Excelsis



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us the strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
 Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.
 Her warfare really is over.
 Her guilt is fully paid for.
 Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double
 for all her sins.

A voice is calling out:
 In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.
 In the wasteland make a level highway for our
 God.
 Every valley will be raised up,
 and every mountain and hill will be made low.
 The rugged ground will become level,
 and the rough places will become a plain.
 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
 and all flesh together will see it.
 Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A voice was saying, "Cry out!"
 And I said, "What shall I cry out?"
 All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the
 countryside.
 Grass withers, flowers fade,
 when the breath of the LORD blows on them.
 Yes, the people are grass.
 Grass withers, flowers fade,
 but the Word of our God endures forever.

Get up on a high mountain,
 O Zion, you herald of good news.
 Lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.
 Lift it up! Do not be afraid!
 Say to the cities of Judah,
 "Here is your God!"
 Look, God the LORD will come with strength,
 and his arm is ruling for him.
 Look, his reward is with him.
 The result of his work is in front of him.
 Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.
 With his arm he will gather the lambs.
 He will lift them up on his lap.
 He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

Refrain

I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people*
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation.

Refrain

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;*
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- 2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these

things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

Verse of the Day

Luke 3:4,6

Tune: CW 2

C: Hear the prophet's desert cry: "Raise the

low, bring down the high. For the Lord pre -

pare the way. All will see God's glo - ri - ous day."

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Stand.

Gospel ----- Mark 1:1-8

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger ahead
of you,
who will prepare the way for you.
A voice of one calling out in the
wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make his paths straight.”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW 16

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest 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.
4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

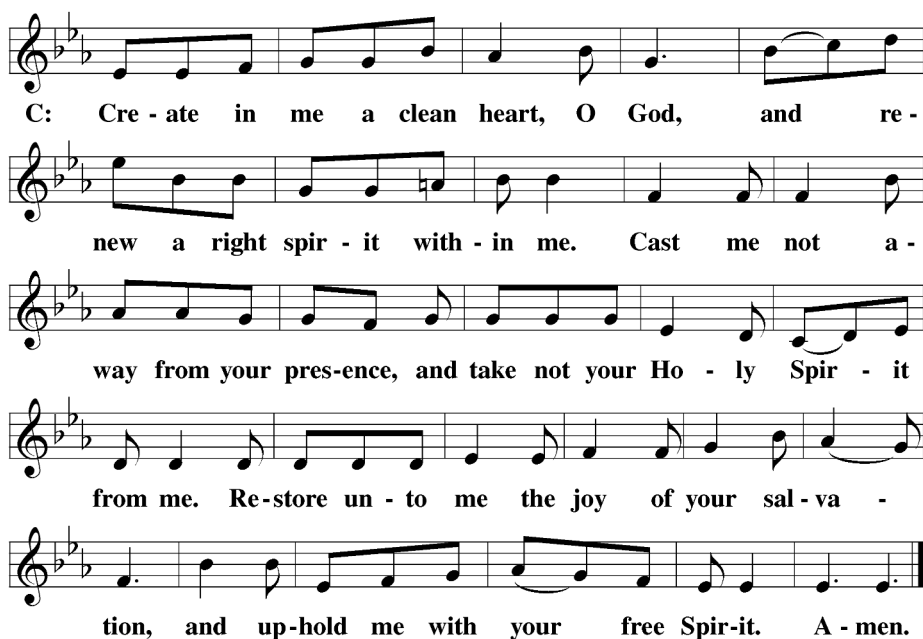
5. All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Sermon ----- Isaiah 40:1–11

Prepare Joyfully to Welcome Our Saving Lord

Stand.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give



Offerings support the spread
of the Gospel here and around the world.

Prayer of the Church

*The minister calls for the petitions and the congregation prays with “**Lord, have mercy.**”*

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: That the Lord’s face would shine on us, that we may be saved; and that Christ would lead us in straight paths as He once led Joseph like a flock, bringing us out of the bondage of our sins and planting us securely in His eternal promises, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For diligent and faithful pastors, that like John the Forerunner, they would preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins and herald the Messiah, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For us and our fellow citizens, that God would preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men who come and go like grass before His breath; for our nation, that God would give rulers who will rule after His good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life; and for godly quietness and honesty, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the sick and sorrowing, that the Shepherd of Israel would give ear to their need [*especially* _____]; and for healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry out to God, that they may find comfort in His enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the Lord’s patience and His Spirit, that when we have strayed from His commandments we may be drawn back to Him in repentance, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For all who commune this day, that we may receive this Sacrament rightly as Christ’s true medicine of immortality; and that, with faith strengthened and sins forgiven, we may live in holiness and godliness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: In the memory of the saints before us who rest in the Lord's presence, and for the Church on earth awaiting the coming of Christ, that God would preserve us both until He gathers us to Himself in the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei





Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ----- There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

CW 13

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 the Lord our God may go!

2. O Christians, you bring good tidings;
Get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
The coming of their King.
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish;
Like grass their works decay.
The pow'r and pomp of nations
Shall pass like a dream away;
3. But the Word of our God is eternal;
The arm of the Lord is strong.
He stands in the midst of the nations,
And he shall right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
The lambs shall gently hold,
To pastures of peace shall lead them,
And bring them safe to his fold.

Hymn ----- God's Own Son Most Holy

CW 17

1. God's own Son most holy Came a servant lowly,
Came to live among us, Came to suffer for us,
Bore the cross to save us, Hope and freedom gave us.
2. Still he comes within us; Still his voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us, Would to truth convert us
From our foolish errors Ere he comes in terrors.
3. Thus, if we have known him And will not disown him
Nor have loved him coldly But will trust him boldly,
He will then receive us, Heal us, and forgive us.

4. Those who then are loyal Find a welcome royal.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Let us here confess you Till in heav'n we bless you.

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

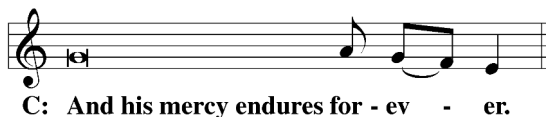
Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



Be seated.

Hymn ----- Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 11

1. “Comfort, comfort all my people; Speak of peace,” so says our God.
 “Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows’ load.
 Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
 Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over.”
2. All their sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
 All that well deserve his anger He no more will see or heed.
 They have suffered many a day; Now their griefs have passed away.
 God will change their aching sadness Into ever-springing gladness.
3. John the Baptist’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,
 Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.
 Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
 Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.

4. Straighten out the crooked highway; Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, Ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That his word is never broken.



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