

December 5, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.
Second Sunday in Advent



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 5, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

This year, the holy evangelist St. Mark greets us to lead us through a new Church Year. He does not, however, greet us as we might expect. For one thing, he seems to have forgotten all about Christmas! At least Matthew and Luke tell of Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger and of angels and shepherds. But Mark? While Christmas is the earthly “beginning” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this preacher means that his entire Gospel, the whole biblical story, is but “the beginning of the Gospel.” It is as if he means to say that the Baptist’s call to repentance comes to us *In Medias Res*, that is, in the middle of everything else, in the middle of the biblical story and in the middle of our lives and activities, right now. He is saying, “Stop what you’re doing. Repent again and welcome the Greater One, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The Christian faith and life is one of continual repentance and faith. Watch and listen as our Lord comes to us again, now, by His Spirit in His Word and Sacraments.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP *"Prepare the Way of the Lord"* Jacques Berthier

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Peace.

A time of hope and preparation for the coming of Christ.

Pastor: ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*1 Thessalonians 5:19-23 New International Version (NIV)*)

Pastor: “We light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope,

People: **to remind us of the hope that the people of Israel had for the coming of the Messiah.”**

(The first candle is lit)

Pastor: "We light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace,

People: to remind us of the peace that enters our lives when we experience the presence of Jesus Christ."

(The second candle is lit)

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *(Isaiah 9:6)*

Pastor: God of grace, sometimes our lives and actions are anything but peaceful. Help us to quiet our minds, mouths, and bodies, to be still and invite in the peace that can only come through You.

People: Guide us in all that we say and do, that we may reflect Your love and peace. Amen.

HYMN

"Comfort, Comfort These My People"

(v 1, 3, 4)

[Johann Olearius / Catherine Winkworth. Public Domain]

"Comfort, comfort these my people,
Speak of peace!" so says our God.
Comfort these who sit in darkness
Groaning under sin's dread rod.

"To my people I proclaim
Pardon now in Jesus' name.
Tell them that their sins I cover,
That their warfare now is over!"

Now the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance,
For the kingdom now is here!
Oh, that warning cry obey,
Oh, prepare for God a way,
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
Let the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight must be what long was crooked;
Make the roughest places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
Ready for his holy reign!
Here the glory of the Lord
Stands so graciously revealed
That all people see the token
That God's word is never broken!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord. We confess our sins to God in the full assurance of the gift of forgiveness by the mighty sacrifice of His Son.

People: **O God, we cry out for Your forgiveness. Our lives are disfigured and crushed by our sins, those that trouble us as well as those of which we are not aware. Restore our lives and faith by Your own command for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us to bring the joy of Your salvation. Bid all shadows and darkness in our lives be gone and fill us with the glorious rays of eternal light. Keep us faithful to the work that You have given us while it is day. Make us always ready to share with others around us the hope and the joy we have within us. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our bright and Morning Star. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 40:1–11 (Comfort for God's people)*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will 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 like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: **righteous and having salvation.**

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

EPISTLE: 2 Peter 3:8–14 (*The day of the Lord will come.*)

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1–8 (*John the Baptist prepares the way.*)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”— ³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY ***"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"***

(v 1-4)

[Charles Coffin / Michael Praetorius. Public Domain]

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!

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.

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;
Oh, let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

SERMON: **"In Medias Res,"** *Mark 1:1-8*

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: We pray for the Church, the community of God's forgiven people, asking that God's messengers may continue to speak with power among us and that we may be engaged fully in service to God and in ministry to one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray this day for the fellowship of faith and love that we enjoy as God's holy people, asking that we may worship with great joy and full anticipation of the blessings of God that come to us through it. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: And we pray for those who serve in leadership positions in our national Synod, our district, and our local congregation, that God may work among us through their example and witness that we may grow in devotion and dedication in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those for whom the seasons of Advent and Christmas are sad or challenging, that we may reach out to them with compassion and joy, keeping our focus always on the wonderful action of God on our behalf through the coming of Jesus, the bright and Morning Star. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: With thankfulness, we ask God's blessing on all who brighten these darkening days of the year—the shopworkers and postal clerks, the musicians and carolers, the delivery people, and all those who work long hours in these days. May we be truly appreciative of all those who carry out their vocations for the betterment of our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: (Special petition) Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"The Advent of Our God"

(v 1, 2, 3, 6)

[Coffin / Chandler / Williams. Public Domain]

The advent of our God
Shall be our theme for prayer;
Come, let us meet him on the road
And place for him prepare.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate stoops to be,
Himself the servant's form puts on
To set his people free.

Come, Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly king,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.

All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

[Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.]

Serving Us Today

Pastor ... Rev. Dennis Krueger

Organist ... Katherine Herman

Singers ... Mark Ganschow, Marie Thompson

Altar ... Judy Boersch

Deacon ... Mark Ganschow