



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Waseca, MN



Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 2020

GATHERING

Introduction

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. Zechariah's song underscores the connection between the appearance of John and Jesus, with God's faithfulness to Israel. John the Baptist will prepare people to receive the one who is coming, Jesus the Son of God. In our gospel reading, John's preaching to "prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight," is a call to break free from the past and let Jesus lay claim to our lives.

Welcome and Announcements

(Please stand)

Gathering Song (cranberry) #264 Prepare the Royal Highway (Verses 1,3,4)

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, fore told 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 many 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~

(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting

P: Today we light the candle of peace, along with the candle of hope which we lit last week.
As we continue the season of Advent, we wait in hopeful anticipation of the peace the Christ-child will bring to a weary world.

(*Two Advent candles are lit*)

Let us prepare our hearts as we await the coming of our Lord.

C: **Let us watch for the one who hears our cries and shoulders the suffering of our world.**

P: Let us anticipate the arrival of God's eternal word spoken in his Son, Jesus.

C: **Prepare the Way for the Lord**

P: Where people walk in darkness

C: **Prepare the Way for the Lord**

P: Where busy lives need stilling

C: **Prepare the Way for the Lord**

P: Where minds are full of tinsel, presents and parties

C: **Prepare the Way for the Lord**

P: And now, in this place and among your people gathered here

C: **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

P: Into this broken world we call planet earth

C: **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

P: Where there is no peace

C: O Come Lord Jesus and help us find room for you in our hearts. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Luke 1:68-79

Zechariah's song announcing the birth of John the Baptist, is a clear message that God has not forgotten his people who cry to him day and night. John will prepare people for the rule of God, centered in the one who is coming, Jesus our Lord.

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

R The Word of God, Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music Video

"Emmanuel"

Senior Choir

C: **"Somehow, there's a little more of love. Maybe there's a little less of us.
Or maybe we're just slightly more aware. There's a little bit of heaven ev'ry
where.
It's funny how it takes a holiday to show us how the world could truly change.
If we all took the time to really care, there'd be a little more heaven ev'rywhere."**

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) p174 *Alleluia*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia

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P The holy Gospel according to *St. Luke* the third chapter:

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

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

Hymn #314 Arise, Your Light Has Come! (Verses 1-4)

1. *Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.*
2. *Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door:
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.*
3. *Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.*
4. *Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.*

Message: Breaking free from the past

Message Song: #249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (Verses 1, 2, 4, 5)

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.*
4. *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.*
5. *All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.*

Apostle's Creed

**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 into hell.**

**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.**

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: To you, O God,

C: we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P: Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of +Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the People

P With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Hear us, O God.

(after each portion of prayer the congregation responds with)

C Your mercy is great.

THANKSGIVING

(Please stand)

Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P We share Christ's peace with each other.

(Please be seated)

Stewardship Minute

Thank you to our church families who have agreed to participate in our Virtual Christmas Pageant, which will be shared during worship on Sunday, December 20. Thank you to our Children's Ministry leader who has worked hard to make this a possibility. AND ALSO, thank you to all who have offered their help and involvement in our "Drive-by Live Nativity" on December 18 and 19!

Offering (You can leave your offering in the basket by the door when you leave)

(Please stand)

What...can I give him, poor...as I am?

If I were a shep-herd I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise...man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him-give my heart.

Offering Prayer

P Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us.

*Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new
and our lives reveal your light.*

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father in heaven,**
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

P *May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from before your path.
Almighty God, Father, ~~H~~ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*
Amen.

(Please stand)

Sending Song (cranberry) #248 ***People Look East (Verses 1, 3, 4)***

1. *People, look east. The time is near of the crowing of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today Love, the Guest, is on the way.*
3. *Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today Love, the Star, is on the way.*
4. *Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today Love , the Lord, is on the way.*

Dismissal

P *Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Al Tonn

Lector: Carol Tilney

Acolyte: Kendall Bowers

Ushers: Jon & Vicki O'Neil

Council Person: Val Possehl

Videographer: Dennis Sommers

Thank you to our members for your service at worship!

