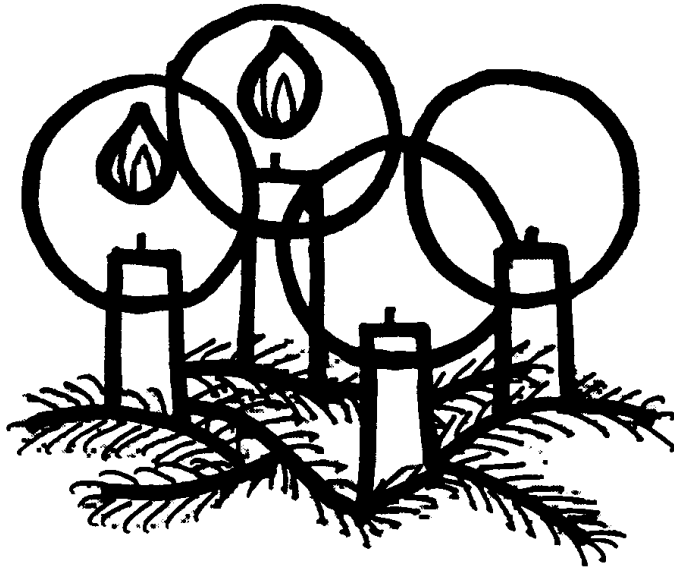


# SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*HEAR THE FORERUNNERS CALLING!*



Christ Lutheran Church  
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota  
December 06, 2020

## The Season of Advent

**Watch! Wait! Repent! Rejoice!** These are the rousing calls of the Advent season now upon us. In these weeks before Christmas we anticipate Jesus' first advent, or coming, as our Savior at Christmas. But we also wait in expectation for his second coming as Judge on the Last Day. Between these two "advents" of our Savior, Jesus comes to waiting hearts through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

*God bless your worship!*

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### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### GATHERING SONG

*Lead Us to Your Light*  
by Carol Browning

*Please remain seated.*

*A cantor will introduce the refrain; the congregation joins in singing it a second time and thereafter as indicated.*

**Refrain:**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the refrain. The first staff is in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics "Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness." are written below the notes. The second staff is identical in notation and lyrics, but ends with a double bar line. The lyrics "Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come." are written below the notes.

*Cantor:* Lord, we await your coming to our world; bring us the gift of salvation.

**C: Refrain**

*Cantor:* Lord, you are our hope and healing for our world; come, now, and bring us your good news.

**C: Refrain**

#### INVOCATION

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

**C: Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

M: The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

**C: Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.**

M: Let us confess our sins and be assured of God's forgiveness. *(brief silence for reflection)*  
Almighty and most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are sinful from birth, sinful from the time of our conception. We have sinned against you by not living holy and godly lives as you call us to live. We have we not always lived in a mindful way of your righteous judgment to come on the Last Day. Have mercy on us, O Lord, we pray. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

M: The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar;

**C: the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.**

M: A voice calls in the desert:

**C: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.**

M: Two candles are set aflame for the hope and peace our Savior brings:

**C: And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

*As the candle is lit, the congregation sings CW #23:2*

2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's  
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave *Refrain* Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

## THE WORD

### SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us 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.

C: Amen.

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

*Isaiah's voice was to be the voice of comfort along with John the Baptist, whose ministry Isaiah predicted.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." <sup>9</sup>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!" <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.

## SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

*Peter describes the Lord's patience, his desire for man's repentance, and his sudden return.  
Let us shape our lives to fit the pattern of the future!*

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup>So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 3:4,6

*Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.  
All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia.*

*John the Baptist prepares the rough way for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, fulfilling the words of Isaiah the prophet.*

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” — <sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” <sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*  
CW #16:1-3

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -

es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,  
 nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our  
 uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we

for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.

## **THE SERMON**

### **NICENE CREED**

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 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 worshipped 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.

### **OFFERING**

*The offering will be received in back.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord God, You sent John the Baptist as Your messenger to preach the coming of Your Son. Continue to send pastors to Your Church who will be heralds of good news, faithfully calling people to repentance, proclaiming the Gospel and administering Baptism for the remission of sins. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You are patient and do not wish that anyone should perish. We give You thanks that in Your great mercy, You continue to allow the Gospel to go forth so that all might reach repentance. Help us to live lives worthy of Your call, and keep us ever faithful as we wait for the new heavens and the new earth You have promised. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You are the God of all comfort. Look favorably upon all who suffer from mental or physical infirmity. Grant them healing and patience in the face of affliction, and never let them forget that You are with them. We especially remember: (*names may be added*) Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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

*We are a “sacramental” church. We believe that in Baptism and the Lord’s Supper God comes to us with forgiveness in very tangible means. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus’ body and blood are present in the sacrament and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor before communing. We don’t want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we have had an opportunity to explain them. We do look forward to any opportunity to discuss with you the Christian faith. Preparation for the sacrament is on the last page of this service folder.*

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

### 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.

**C: Amen.**



# DISTRIBUTION

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates*  
CW #3



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -  
2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where  
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make  
5 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My



hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is  
char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is  
Christ the rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and  
it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for  
heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.  
ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress.  
hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -  
The end of all our woe he brings; There -  
The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who  
So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And  
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -



fore re - joyce and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther  
fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior  
comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it  
new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be  
til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
praise For word and deed and grace!  
fame We of - fer to your name.

## PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you give us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## BLESSING

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.

C: Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*When All the World was Cursed*  
CW #20:4



4 Oh, grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing, The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pent-ance voic-ing, That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way Un-til we live with him In his e-ter-nal day.

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## PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.*