



## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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# The Second Sunday of Advent

11 AM, Sunday, December 6, 2020

*Setting Three, LBW*

WELCOME

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☛ **Amen.**

☞ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☛ **Amen.**

☞ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Stand/kneel*

- ☐ Most merciful God,
- ☑ **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**
- ☐ Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- ☑ **Amen.**

## The Entrance Rite

HYMN LBW 29

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

FREU DICH SEHR

### APOSTOLIC 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.**

### KYRIE

Cantor *Kyrie eleison* (three times)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ 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.  
**Amen**

### ADVENT CANDLE

- ☐ We praise you, O God, with this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles of this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we will be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we will welcome others as you have

welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 40:1-11, RSV

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The LORD will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of our God.*

- <sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.
- <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.
- <sup>3</sup>A voice cries:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- <sup>4</sup>Every 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.
- <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
- <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people is grass.
- <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
- <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,  
"Behold your God!"

<sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd,  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 LBW (*To be read responsively, by whole verse*)

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying,  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before him,  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

SECOND LESSON..... 2 Peter 3:8-15a, RSV

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. St. Peter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact,  
beloved, that with the Lord one day is

as a thousand years, and a thousand  
years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow

about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought

**A** The word of the Lord.

*Stand*

ALLELUIA VERSE, by Cantor

Alleluia.

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. (Ps. 85:7)

Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL .....Mark 1:1-8, RSV

*Before the Gospel:*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the First Chapter:

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

**T**he beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,  
who shall prepare thy way;  
<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight--”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And there went out to him all the country

you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. <sup>15</sup>And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

☐ The Gospel of the Lord!

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (*Sit, after the invocation.*)

HYMN ELW 437

*On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand*

PROMISED LAND

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

THE PRAYERS

## The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

THE PEACE

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

*Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: "Peace be with you."*

THE OFFERING

*Donate now: [Donate](#)*

*Here are some other options for giving: [Ways to Give](#)*

**☩ Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*spoken*)

**☩** The Lord be with you.

**☩ And also with you.**

**☩** Lift up your hearts.

**☩ We lift them to the Lord.**

**☩** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Preface for Advent*

**☩** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus*

**☩ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Eucharistic Prayer I*

**☩** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**☩ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**☩** Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**☩ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**☩** Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**☩ Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

**☩** Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**☩ Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

*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.**

*The Fraction (The Bread is broken)*

*Agnus Dei*

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**



## THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

- ✦ Holy Communion is offered to all baptized Christians who continue in the faith of the Church. If you would like to receive the Eucharistic Wine, please receive the small glass by the top edge, trying not to touch the minister's fingers. After communing, place the small glass on the tray, upright if possible.
- ✦ If you should desire to pray quietly before or while receiving the Holy Sacrament, as many Christians do, here is one of Luther's prayers for that purpose:

*Lord, it is true that I am not worthy that you should come under my roof. Yet I am in need and desire your help and grace. So I come with no other plea except that I have heard the gracious invitation to come to your altar. I am unworthy, but you have assured me I shall have forgiveness of all sins through your body and blood which I eat and drink in this sacrament. Amen, dear Lord; your Word is true. I do not doubt it. Let happen to me whatever you say. Amen.*

- ✦ If you should desire to pray quietly after receiving the Holy Communion, here is a possible such prayer. It is based on a prayer of St. Basil the Great (329-379):

*O Master, Christ our God: I thank you for all the good things which you have bestowed upon me, and for this partaking of your life-giving Sacrament. And I pray: keep me, my loved ones, and this congregation under your protection, and in the shadow of your wings. For you are the Bread of Life, the Fountain of holiness, the Giver of good things, and unto you we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

- ✦ If you are home during this pandemic, worshiping online with us, here is a possible "Prayer for Spiritual Communion" lifted up in a recent *Forum Letter* (May 2020). *Forum Letter* is a respected Lutheran newsletter published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau:

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Communion Anthem *Jesu, Dulcis Memoria* Tomas Luis de Victoria (1540-1608)  
The Immanuel Choir

Jesu, dulcis memoria,  
Dans vera cordis gaudia:  
Sed super mel et omnia  
Ejus dulcis praesentia.

O sweet memory of Jesus  
Giving real joys of the heart  
But above honey and all things  
Is His sweet presence.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN LBW 26 *Prepare the Royal Highway* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

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† Note on our Bible Lessons: They are downloaded from Bible Gateway — <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. Copyright information for the various translations is included on the Bible Gateway website.

† NEW TO PRAYER LIST: Ann Chomko (Barbara's mother), Bruce Harbour (Robin's father), Peter Davie (Thomas Wick's godfather), Bennett Harris (colleague of Pastors Fryer), Robert Mallery (son-in-law of David Kiehl's sister), Wolfgang Hahn, Richard Kaefer, Yoleidy Perez (Tamares's brother), Obdulia Mundo (friend of Maggie Schreiber), Charlie Beckwith (friend of Thomas Wicks), Olga Beloded (John Imhof's wife), and Mary Ann Grant (Deirdre's mother).