

The Second Sunday of Advent

in the 167 Year of the Parish

December 6, 2020. 8:00 & 10:30 am

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”



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PRELUDE

Nun komm, dear Heiden Heiland

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P 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.

C **Amen**

P 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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **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

P 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 of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

***HYMN** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* *LBW 30*

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou
art, Dear desire of every nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

***KYRIE**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

***LIGHTING OUR ADVENT WREATH**

P Behold our Lord and Savior now draws near!

C **Come Lord Jesus!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 40:1-11

- 1 Comfort, O comfort my people,
 says your God.
- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
 and cry to her
 that she has served her term,
 that her penalty is paid,
 that she has received from the LORD's hand
 double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice cries out:
 "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 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.
- 5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
 and all people shall 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 grass,
 their constancy is like the flower of the field.
- 7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
 when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
 surely the people are grass.

8The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9Get 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, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

10See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (*Read responsively*)

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

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

8I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn
their hearts to you.

**9Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

10Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**11Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

12The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**13 Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....2 Peter 3:8-15a

8 Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 10 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 everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL.....Mark 1:1-8**

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were

baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith.

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Hear us O God/**Your mercy is great.**

***THE PEACE**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

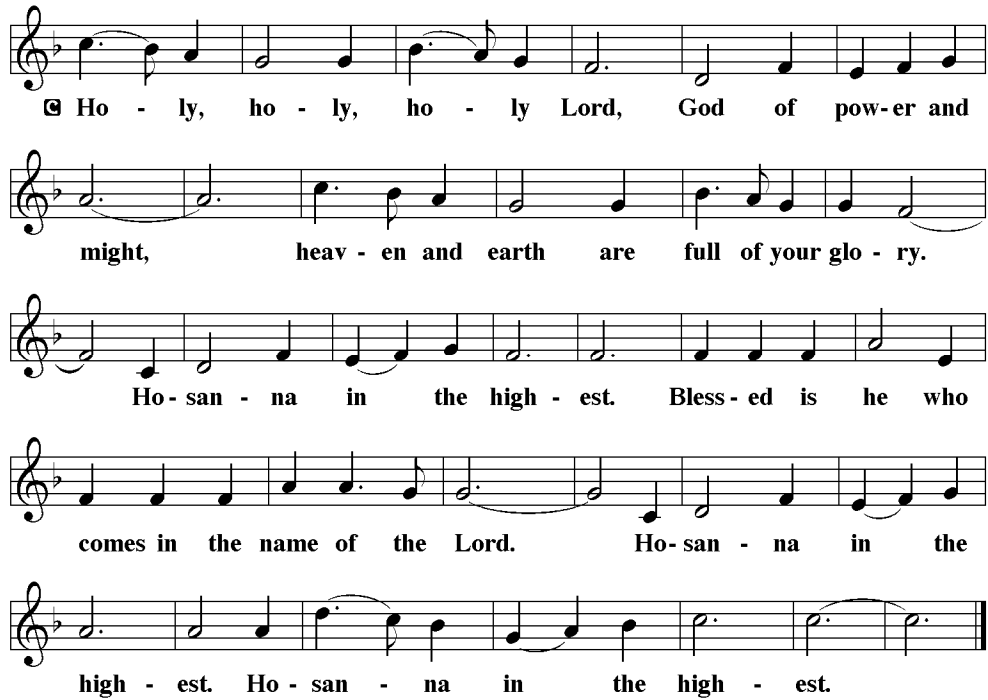
P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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, through Christ our Lord. You comforted your people with the promise of a Redeemer through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P 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."

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

**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 COMMUNION**

P Even as we watch and wait and wonder, Christ is here.
Come, eat and drink.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Gracious and abundant God,
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us
and open our hearts to the world's needs,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE BLESSING**

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.

C Amen

***HYMN** *Fling Wide the Door*

LBW 32

**Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
The King of glory comes in state;
The Lord of lords and King of kings,
The Savior of the world who brings
His great salvation to the earth.
So raise a shout of holy mirth
And praise our God and Lord,
Creator, Spirit, Word.**

**Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;
Our hearts are open wide in trust.
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,
Upon on our sorrows shine your face,
And let your Holy Spirit guide
Our journey in your grace so wide.
We praise your holy name,
From age to age the same.**

***DISMISSAL**

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Von Hummel hoch, da komm 'ich her*
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Flowers: Our altar flowers are given to the glory of God...
In loving memory of Larry Lundy on his birthday by his family.
In honor of my sisters.
In honor of Alverda's fifth birthday by the Comerfords.

Altar Guild:

Deb Buckman and Leah Hausmann

Ushers:

8 am: Dick Miller and Herb Poff

10:30 am: Mike Jensen (Captain), Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber, Pam Jensen (side door).

Lectors- 8 am: Becky Pryor

10:30 am: Lou DeSeau

Prayer List: Liz Ruesskamp, Richard Albright, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Paul Young, Bob Shaible, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Diane Osbaugh, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Pr. Frank Showers, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable,

Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Ben Hufnagel and Steve Dewar.

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE

Worship Attendance- *Sunday, November 29*

8 am -19 10:30 am- 32

Total Offering: \$2276

Regular \$2271 Capital \$0 World Hunger \$0

Food Pantry \$0 Global Missions \$ 0 Misc. \$0

Plate \$ 0 Sunday School \$5

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Today in addition to the second Sunday of Advent we remember Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (died around 342).

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving. He is the historical person upon whom “Santa Claus” is based.

Wednesday, December 9, Advent Mid-week Service, 12:15 pm (Nave).

Thursday, December 24: No “In-person” Christmas Eve Worship. A video recording of worship will be made available by way of Facebook and our webpage.

Sunday, December 13: *there will be two worship times (8 and 10:30) and not one as previously announced. Our Annual Congregational Meeting will follow both services. The change was made to help us better observe COVID-19 guidelines.

THE SONG OF SAINT NICHOLAS
(Tune: "Jolly Old St. Nicholas")

Once upon a long ago
Very far away,
In the town of Bethlehem
Lying in some hay,
Jesus came for you and me
Bringing heaven's love
As a gift for us to have
From the Lord above.

In the town of Myra once
Also long ago,
Lived good Bishop Nicholas
Hair as white as snow.
Nicholas loved Jesus who
Loved and helped us all.
"I will do the same", said he,
"Helping great and small."

Thankful Bishop Nicholas
Friendly, good and wise;
When he could he helped the poor
Always by surprise
People came to Nicholas
Bringing wealth to share
So it could be sent to those
Living in despair.

We should be like Nicholas
Thankful, good and kind,
Loving those who need our help
All the ones we find.
Jesus and St. Nicholas
Taught us to give:
Share but never seek rewards,
That is how to live!