

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6th, 2020

Zoom Service 10:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Prelude Comfort, Comfort Now My People, ELW 256

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting

Sing verse 2 as the candle is lit.

1. Light a can-dle bright and tall For the Hope with - in our world.
2. Light a can-dle bright and tall For the Peace we wish to know.
3. Light a can-dle bright and tall For the Joy this sea - son brings.
4. Light a can-dle bright and tall For a Love which knows no end.
5. Light a can-dle bright and tall For the Christ we greet to - day.

Hope that heard the a - ges' call As the stars and pla - nets whirled.
Peace on Earth for great and small God's Good News to us be - stows.
Joy like foun - tains brim - ming full. Through our world now let it ring!
Love that comes to one and all. Fear and ha - tred to up - end.
Christ has come, our all in all. With the an - gels, let us say:

Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.
Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.
Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.
Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Love, to us, we pray.
Shine with - in our hearts to - day Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.

L Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the night, welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. **A Amen.**

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A And also with you!**

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



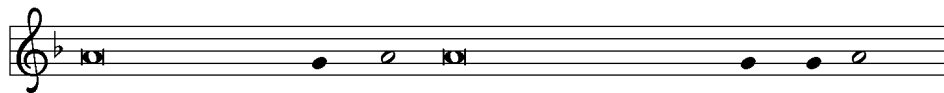
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

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.

A Amen.

Reading from the Old Testament, Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every 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.

⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The 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!"

in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting 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? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

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

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

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

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

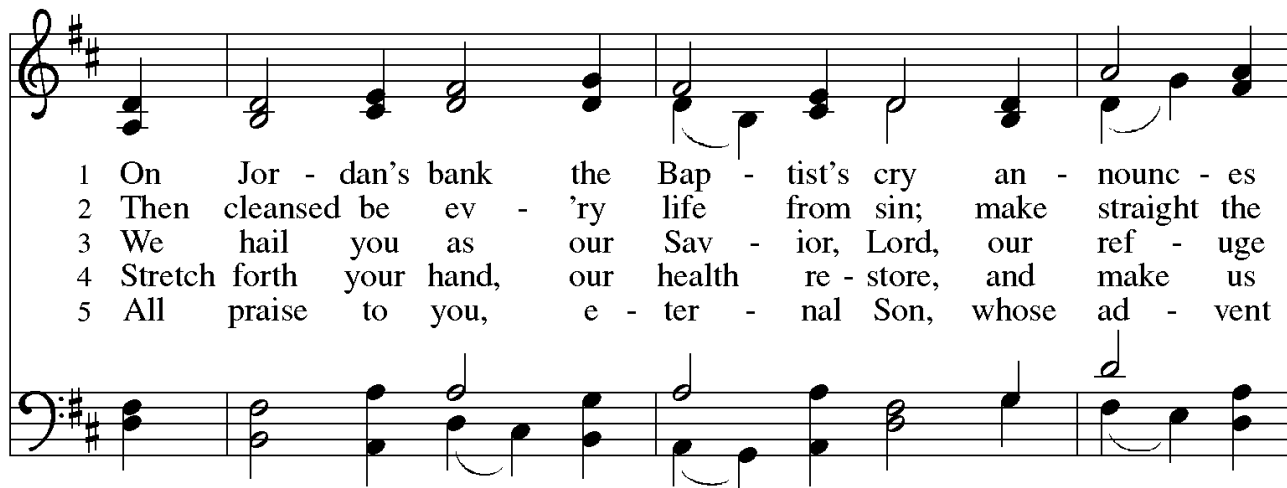
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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.”

Sermon

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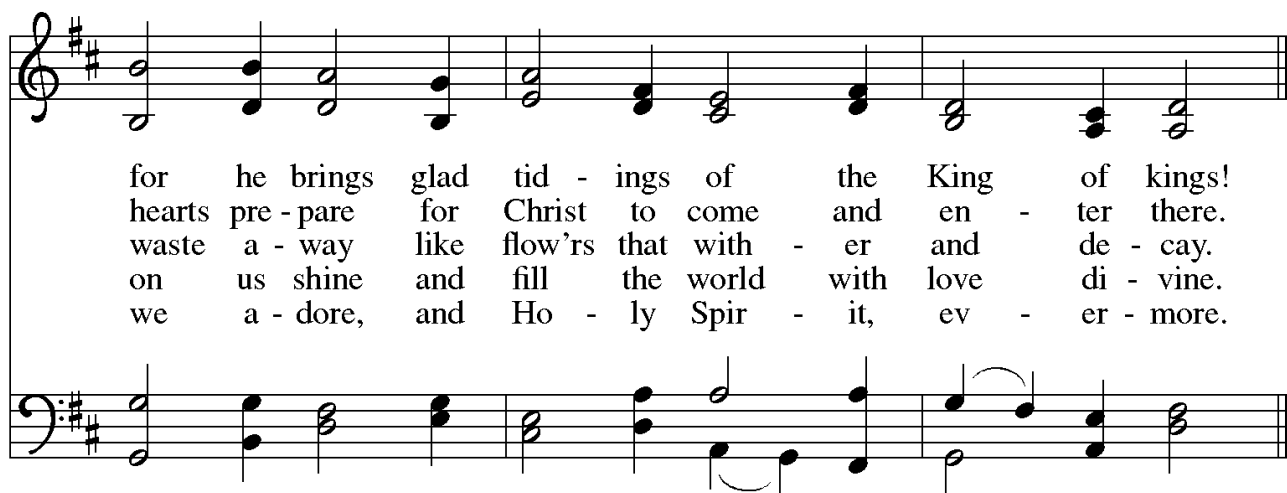
HYMN: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry, ELW 249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of 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.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Prayers of the People

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need, responding to each petition muted or un-muted with the words 'Your mercy is great'.

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. We pray especially for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, pastor Kim, our president Scott, our council, call committee, and reopening team. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, we pray for relief from the pandemic. Bring meaningful work to those furloughed. Guide and watch over all first responders and essential workers. Surround with your presence family and friends who are anxious for those on the front lines of crisis. Inspire healthcare workers and medical researchers as we rejoice in news of vaccines. Be a powerful presence with those in quarantine, those who feel isolated, and with all students, teachers and staff in academic communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspiring God, we pray for leadership of our congregation. Guide our process of discernment as we seek to know your will for identifying those who will lead this assembly on our Council in the coming year. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a

companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. We pray especially for Steve Andes, Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Laura Burdick, Mid Carlson, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Joe Harrington, Jim Jung, John and Nancy, Judith Kratochvil, Ernie LeVon, Elaine Nelson, Veronica Repasz, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, George Stewart, Leslie Thais, Scott Weidler, and those whose names we call out to you here, muted or un-muted: . . . *A brief silence.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

And now, siblings, for what else shall we pray, silent or spoken aloud? *A longer period of silence.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work especially Nicholas of Myra. Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

Offertory Anthem: Veni Emmanuel, by Zoltan Kodaly

We worship God with our offerings. We give thanks for those who support Immanuel's life and mission. [We invite you to do that online](#) or by mail, and with your presence, prayer, and talents.

Offertory Prayer

And now, as we unmute ourselves for the Great Thanksgiving we pray together:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to all be blessed.

Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

Prayer at the Table

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,

our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.
And for this we pray: **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
And for this we pray: **Amen! Come, Holy Spirit!**

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
A 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.

Communion

Come for all things are now ready; the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing may receive their bit of bread from God's hand, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing may drink of the cup they have prepared, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

For those fasting, receive this prayer of blessing in God's presence:

May God who loves you be truly present with the Spirit of grace, mercy and joy, uplifting and blessing you in the promise of your baptism.

Table Dismissal

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Benediction

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.

Amen.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coffee hour/Announcements

TODAY AT IMMANUEL

Council Discernment Process: As part of our discernment process for deciding which persons God is calling forward from the Assembly to serve as leaders on our Congregation Council, the Nominating Committee is asking all baptized and confirmed members of the congregation to prayerfully name one person they believe the Holy Spirit is lifting up as a leader. These leaders must be baptized, confirmed members of the congregation. This year the Nominating Committee is also offering space to hear what gifts these leaders would bring to their Council service. All responses are anonymous. Submissions will be through an online form, which you can access by clicking this link: <https://forms.gle/HndbQCPXAp4fY6su8>. Please submit by **December 8th**.

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Personnel Committee

7:30 pm Tuesday on zoom

Love Comes Down! Advent Midweek Worship & Fellowship Advent 2: Love Heard & Confessed

7 pm Wednesday on zoom

Our Midweek Gatherings on Wednesdays in Advent will be Holden Evening Prayer, with a brief meditation and time for reflection. This week we consider Love Heard and Confessed, in the stories of St Ambrose, and Juan Diego and the Virgin of Guadalupe, followers of Jesus whose lives are commemorated in December. Fellowship will follow the end of the evening prayer as we share the peace.

Nominating Committee

8:30 pm Wednesday on zoom

Property Committee

7 pm Thursday on zoom

LOOKING AHEAD

December 17 is the deadline for your recording of Silent Night! Our whole congregation can join in song thru the gift of the Spirit in technology and Jimmy & Tom's mixing magic. For directions and song sheets <https://files.constantcontact.com/e07707f0801/23c8ca0a-43f3-4788-b958-be1547f4f80f.pdf>

Christmas Eve worship will be held at 8 pm on zoom.

Christmas Day worship will be held at 10 am, a joint Lessons and Carols service with Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown PA.

THE SEASON AT HOME

Consider using our offertory prayer for the season as your table grace this Advent, perhaps as you light your advent wreath candles.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to all be blest.

Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

See the December newsletter for the Krentz Family Devotion and other ideas to keep the season at home.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Free Little Pantry At Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Church has received a grant to support an existing Little Pantry, modeled after the Little Libraries. While we're a bit distant from Grace, if you run into people who might benefit from the free food offered there, or if you have any questions please contact conniewood44@gmail.com or 847.869.2289

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Show this weekend under the artistic direction of Jimmy Morehead! Virtual performances are Dec 4 & 5 at 8 pm, and Sunday Dec 6 at 3 pm. For tickets, go to <https://www.cgmc.org/2020-events/holiday/>

Invitation to Contribute to Interfaith Action Council Hospitality Center for the Homeless

Every weekday St. Mark's Episcopal Church opens its doors to guests at the Interfaith Action Council Hospitality Center for the Homeless. They get support from a job coordinator, learn computer and other job skills, and find a place of welcome. Your gift makes it possible to bring people together to serve hungry and homeless people, pursue interfaith dialogue, and engage in advocacy that promotes social justice. You can make a contribution through Interfaith Action's website or send a check to Interfaith Action of Evanston, P.O. Box 1414, Evanston IL 60204. Be sure to put St. Mark's in the subject line.

GoFundMe page for Swedish Covenant Meals through Prairie Grass Café is still open. Now more than ever we give thanks for our front line medical workers. God's work, our hands! [Go Fund Me Page](#)