

# First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

## Order of Worship for Sunday, December 6, 2020: Second Sunday in Advent

**Gathering** *We enter into Advent, a season of longing and anticipation; longing for God's presence and saving power, with the Psalmist we pray "Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved." (Psalm 80:7)*

### Welcoming & Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Confession & Forgiveness

*In the name of the Father, and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

*God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive 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.**

*In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway" #264

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, foretold in sacred story;  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
2. God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!  
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 may bring.  
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
4. His is no earthly kingdom; it come 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:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

### 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.**

### Prayer of the Day

*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. Amen.*

## Word

### Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 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. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 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, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He 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.

### Reading: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

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

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

I 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.**

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

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

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

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, **and our land will yield its increase.**

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

### Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

But 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. 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. 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. 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, 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? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation** Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8 (response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

## **Message**

**Hymn:** "All Earth is Hopeful" #266

1. All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
2. People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
4. We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib,  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

## Apostles' Creed

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 to the dead.  
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 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.

Offering/Offertory *Special Music by Jennie Odello*

## Prayers

### Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Peace *Please share a sign of peace with one another*

# Sending

Hymn: "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" #247

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| 1. Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.<br>Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people. | 2. Come now, O God of love, make us one body.<br>Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people. |
| 3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.<br>Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.   | 4. Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.<br>Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.     |

*Text: Charles Wesley, Music: W. Walker. Public Domain.*

## Benediction

*Go in peace, serve the Lord!*

**Thanks be to God!**

# Remember in your prayers

Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support, Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.