

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

December 9, 2018

8:00 am



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The King Shall Come to Bring Us Peace

AS WE GATHER

Preparation is probably on your mind. Christmas is only weeks away. There are presents to buy, visits to plan, decorations to put up, lights to see, food to cook, and so much more! As we prepare for Jesus to come, we reflect on John the Baptist's words to people who asked what they should do to prepare for the Messiah's coming. John says we are to "make His paths straight" by sharing food and clothing, by not taking advantage of people, and by being content with what the Lord has given us. In the midst of your busy preparations, consider these words.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDES

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”
“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Charles Ore
Burkhardt & Manz

TOLLING OF THE BELL

Congregation, please stand.

HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Based on Luke 3:4–6

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: **Make His paths straight.**

Pastor: Every valley shall be filled,

People: **and every mountain and hill made low.**

Pastor: The crooked shall become straight,

People: **and the rough places shall become level ways.**

Pastor: All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

People: **We wait for Christ’s return and the resurrection of all flesh.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: **He is coming soon indeed!**

Alleluia!

Peace

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

People: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

People: **We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.**



Light the Candle

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

David von Kampen

Light the can-dle of peace to - day, the Giv - er of peace is
here! Wel - come the peace we fight and cry for,
but on - ly Christ can give. Flick - er and flame and
glow with peace, light up the world a - round you.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Light the Candle'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Light the can-dle of peace to - day, the Giv - er of peace is here! Wel - come the peace we fight and cry for, but on - ly Christ can give. Flick - er and flame and glow with peace, light up the world a - round you.'

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 3:6; Psalm 66:1–2*

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. As we wait for His coming, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence, how crooked our world has become, and how unjust are our relationships. We come before the Lord in humility.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have strayed from Your path. We have been selfish and cruel. We have treated our neighbors with injustice and prejudice. We have oppressed the weak in order to gain power. We long to return to You, but how are we to return?

Pastor: As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, he said, "All flesh shall see the salvation of God." God sent Jesus to bring salvation to the world through His death and resurrection. This salvation is complete, and Christ comes to you once again with forgiveness, life, and salvation. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. "Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!"

✂ WORD ✂

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-7b

(God's messenger prepares the way for the day of the Lord.)

"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

"So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

"I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

"But you ask, 'How are we to return?'"

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



Epistle: Philippians 1:2-11
(We are all partakers of grace.)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia Verse and the Gospel.

VERSE *Luke 3:4b, 6*

ALL: **Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

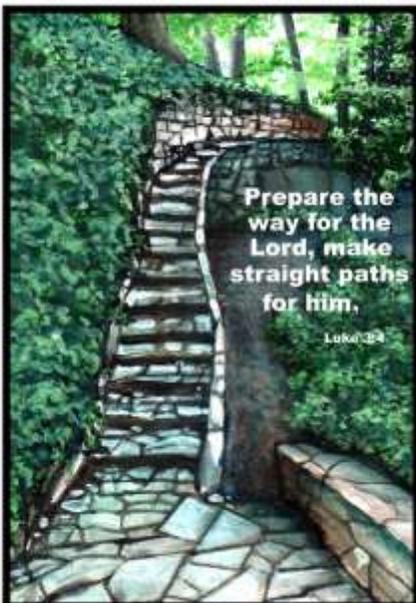
Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-20

(John the Baptist prepares the way.)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar--when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene-- during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:



"A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.' "

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay."

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LSB 344

SERMON "Second String"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Luke 3:1-20

APOSTLES' CREED *Text can be found in the back cover of your Hymnal.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Luke 19:38*

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Dear heavenly Father, as we prepare the way for Christ to come, we proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Pastor: Lord, we have kept our distance from You. Our repentance and return has been halfhearted and imperfect. Forgive us, and return to us despite our failures, for "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Pastor: Lord, we have kept our distance from our neighbors, from the suffering and forsaken, from the widow and the orphan, from the foreigner and refugee. Strengthen us to serve our neighbors, and strengthen them in their trials. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Pastor: Lord, heal the sick, injured, and recovering among us, [*especially . . .*]. Strengthen them with Your gracious hand and with Your unwavering presence. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Pastor: Lord, console the grieving with Your presence. [*Today we remember the families and friends of . . .*] Comfort them with the hope of resurrection life that is ours in Christ Jesus. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Pastor: Lord, gladden the hearts of those who rejoice and direct their praise and thanksgiving to You. [*Today we rejoice with . . .*] Grant that their rejoicing lead us all to say: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Pastor: Lord, help us to live under Your perfect care. Prevent us from turning aside to idols and distractions. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus that we evermore proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

People: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We share the Lord's peace with one another, saying, "Peace be with you."

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Every Valley"



John Ness Beck
Ascension Chorale

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

[Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy King

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Geystliche gesangk Buchheyn,

Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

Andrew R. Jones

The musical score is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly King, Come and vis - it us, and bring Peace through - out the heav'ns and earth, As we raise Ho - san - na's mirth."

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*) *Text is in the back cover of your Hymnal.*

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, You Take Away

Andrew R. Jones

VENI EMMANUEL
French, 15th cent.

O Lamb of God, You take a - way Each sin that leads our
hearts a - stray. Have mer - cy on us, great High Priest,
And lead us to Your end - less feast. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
Em - man - u - el, Your peace is here, O Is - ra - el.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Mary Did You Know”

arr. Mark Hayes
Diana Gaide, pianist

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

LSB 353

“The Day is Surely Drawing Near”

LSB 508

(Verses 1-2, 7)

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “At the Name of Jesus”

LSB 512

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE “Variations on “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” Michael Burkhardt



ADVENT

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
AGAPE PRAISE BAND

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Diana Gaide
Rose Berger, Bri Ford, Lisa O'Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet, Larry Westra

ELDER 8:00
10:30

Arvin Michel
Roger Gaide

LECTOR 8:00
10:30

Mike Reimnitz
Carol Shepherd

ACOLYTE 8:00
10:30

Chrissy Coon
Erik Schwerin

USHERS 8:00
10:30

Larry Nisbet, Ian Avedissian, Ann Ranisate, Members of the Congregation
Jason Dierking, Cody Urbach, Members of the Congregation

SERVER 10:30
ALTAR GUILD

Collin Brinkman
Gloria Mielke, Dawn Munson,
Charmaine Rohde, Barb Williams

FLOWERS

Patti Zeggert in celebration of her daughter, Sarah, on her 30th birthday

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