

The Divine Service

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 6, 2020



AS WE GATHER

What was it that made not only a couple or a few but, as Mark says, "all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem" come out to be baptized by the Baptist and to confess their sins? Well, what is it that made you get up and come to church today? Notice that today not all do come. Though occasionally during wartime or some great catastrophe more tend to come, the catechism explains, "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him." "But," it continues, "the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel." Some think believing is impossible for them. But believing is not on you; it is a gift from God, overflowing with forgiveness, life, and salvation. God was with John by the Jordan River. God is here with you by His Word and Sacraments.

Call to Worship / Check In

Words of Welcome / Theme of the Day

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the (✝) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord. Recalling our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sins to God in the full assurance of the gift of forgiveness by the mighty sacrifice of His Son.

People: **O God, from the wilderness of lives disfigured and crushed by the devil, our own sin, and the sins of others, we cry out to You for the forgiveness of our sins, those that trouble us as well as those of which we are not aware. Restore our life and faith by Your own command for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (✝) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Processional Hymn "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" *LSB 344 verses 1, 3, 5*

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Greeting

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.**

The Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: ¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries: "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. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A 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. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on 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 news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend 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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8-14

Reader:

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Children's Message

Jeremy Becker

"The Candle Carol"

**Light a candle for the bright Son
God sent down from above.
Advent news with joy we share
In the Spirit we love. Chorus.**

**Chorus:
Christ is in our family
Alleluia Sing!
Aren't you glad
He came to be
Our Brother and our King.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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

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

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

LSB 347, verses 1 & 4



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall

4



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Petitions end, “Lord in your mercy” Congregation responds, “Hear Our Prayer”

Gathering of Gifts

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

A word about Holy Communion: We welcome to the Lord's Table all baptized Christians who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in this sacrament and believe that in this eating and drinking, we receive the forgiveness of sins and the power to amend our sinful lives. Children who have not yet been instructed may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over the chest thus indicating they will not receive the elements.

Service of the Sacrament

Stand as you are able.

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

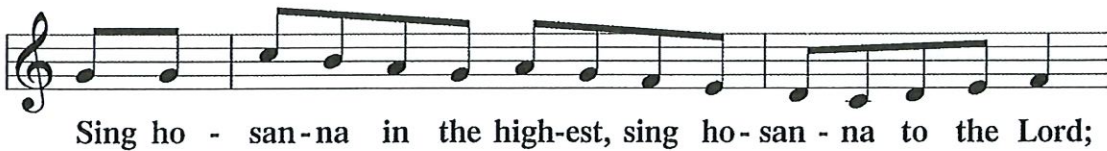
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Proper Preface

Sanctus



The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
People: **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.**

Words of Institution

Peace of the Lord

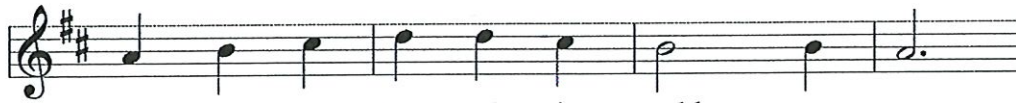
Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **And also with you.**

The minister and congregation may greet one another with the peace of the Lord.

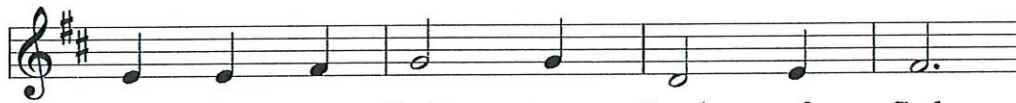
Agnus Dei



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymn

Instrumental

Post Communion Cantic



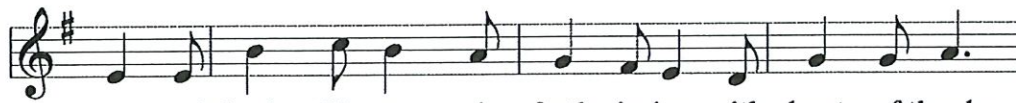
Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-



es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -



giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Collect

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Reception of New Members

11:00 am

Benediction

Recessional Verse "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

LSB 352 verses 1,4, 6



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly
4 As Your coming was in peace, Qui - et, full of
6 Then when You will come a - gain As the glo - rious



kept His word And at last to us did send
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me
king to reign, I with joy will see Your face,



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.
Free - ly ran - somed by Your grace.

Dismissal

Pastor: Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

People: **Disciples making disciples.**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Christmas Schedule



Drive Thru Live Nativity

Sunday, December 6

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Come see the Christmas story come to life! Camels, sheep, donkey and more! Invite your friends and neighbors!

Christmas Party for High School Youth

Wednesday, December 23 at 7:30 PM

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (No Communion)

8:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service

10:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25

10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for children and Youth at 9:45 AM—Via Zoom

Adult Bible Study in person or livestreamed at 10:00 AM