

Second Sunday of Advent ❖ December 6, 2020

***WELCOME!** John the Baptist called people to repent, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading today 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 even the littlest 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 PASTORAL GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN – “Savior of the Nations, Come” (Vss. 1-6) **LSB 332**

- 1 Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.
- 5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.

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THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

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.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, our words, and our behavior—through things we have done and things we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved those around us as we ought. Turn us again to you and uphold us by your Holy Spirit, so that we may live and serve you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE – “Savior of the Nations, Come” (Vs. 8) **LSB 332**

8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

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✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 40:1-11, NIV

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God’s people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This promise can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will 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 like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING – 2 Peter 3:8-15a, NIV

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final coming of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. Peter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming again of the Lord through their conduct dedicated to God.

Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to

live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN – “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (Vs. 5) **LSB 341**

- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

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THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Mark 1:1-8, NIV

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—“a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE HYMN – “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” **LSB 347**

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people, Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over.”
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day, Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked; Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That His Word is never broken.

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THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN – “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

(*V. ss. 1-4*)

LSB 344

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow’rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.

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THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

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 BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN – “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

(*V. ss. 5*)

LSB 344

- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

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✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠