

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 6, 2020

Worship Focus

Company's Coming: Clean-up Crew



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Order of Service for SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Service of Word and Sacrament

Christian Worship, p. 26

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"Thank the Lord" Tune: Richard Hillert. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Augsburg Fortress

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✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

13 – There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, A
2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; Get
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; The



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, A high - way for our God! The
peo - ple The com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, And he shall right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, The lof - ty
flow'rs of the field they per - ish; Like grass their
feed his flock like a shep - herd, The lambs shall



hills brought low; Make straight all the crook - ed
works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of
gent - ly hold, To pas - tures of peace shall



pla - ces Where the Lord our God may go!
na - tions Shall pass like a dream a - way;
lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt.
Tune: ASCENSION (Irregular) Henry H. Bancroft, b. 1904–1988.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

M God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me a sinner.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

✘ The Word ✘

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah predicts the crying out of the voice in the wilderness, calling people to repentance to be ready for the coming Christ.

ISAIAH 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak 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.

³A voice of one calling:

“In the desert prepare the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all mankind together will see it.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry out.”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”

⁹You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good tidings 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!”

¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him.

See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹He 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.

SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:8-14

God patiently allows the world to go on since he is working to bring all people to repentance.

² PETER 3:8 But 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. ⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰But 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 in it will be laid bare.

¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as 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. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

¹⁴So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist is the voice of the one crying out in the wilderness, preparing the way for Christ with his call to repentance.

MARK 1:1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

’I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way’—

³ “a voice of one calling in the desert,

’Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’ “

⁴And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The 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. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷And this was his message: “After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

After the reading of the Gospel the congregation responds:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

16 – On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout 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.
us to 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. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

✘ Sermon ✘

Mark 1:1-8

Company's Coming: God's Clean-up Crew

Sermon notes:

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY

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✠ Prayers ✠

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Brief silence

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved! As You led Joseph like a flock, so now by Your Son lead us into straight paths. Bring us out of the bondage of our sins and plant us securely in Your eternal promises. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in Your blessed patience, You send Your prophets and apostles, pastors and teachers in all times, that sinners would not perish but rather reach repentance and find comfort in Your Word, which alone will stand forever. Preserve the servants of Your Church. Give to our congregation and all congregations an increase of hope, that we may await the revealing of the new heavens and new earth in lives of holiness and godliness, diligent to be found without spot or blemish and at peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all comfort, Your Word alone endures forever. The nations of the world come and go before You. Even kings and rulers are like grass before Your breath. Preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men. Give us leaders who will rule after Your good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life, that we may live in godly quietness and honesty. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, graciously regard all for whom we pray [*especially* _____]. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You once prepared the way of Your only begotten Son through the preaching and baptism of John. Prepare now Your baptized Christians with true repentance and faith that seeks the forgiveness of sins, that they would worthily eat and drink Christ's true body and blood in the blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

✠ The Sacrament ✠

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



DISTRIBUTION

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

PREPARE YE THE
WAY OF THE LORD



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

9 – Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes



1 Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex -
2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall And win - try
3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new, Our sins for -
4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land; Let Sa - tan
5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer To wait for



pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised
clouds o'er - cast the sky, Your words with plea - sure
give, our foes sup - press, Our root - ed en - mi -
from his throne be hurled. Let na - tions bow to
your ap - point - ed hour, And fit us by your



light a - rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?
we re - call And know that our re - demp - tion's nigh.
ty sub - due, And crown your gos - pel with suc - cess.
your com - mand; Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.
grace to share The tri - umphs of your con - qu'ring pow'r.

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796–1877, abr., alt.

Tune: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT (LM) *Andächtige Haus-Kirche*, Nürnberg, 1676, alt.

✠ Sending ✠

PRAYER

M Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



Every valley
shall be FILLED,



and every mountain and hill
shall be MADE LOW.

CLOSING HYMN

702 – Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and
own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -
greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry
comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall
All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness



sa - cred sto - ry:
doubt as - sail you! Ho - san - na to the
now a - dore him!
so a - bound - ing:



Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

This hymn reminds us that Advent is a season of preparation, as King Jesus comes to rule in our hearts and lives and leads us to his heavenly kingdom.

Text: F. M. Franzen, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*; admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN (76 76 77 and Refrain) Swedish folk tune, 17th century