

OUR WORSHIP TODAY December 10th, 2017, 2nd Sunday in Advent**GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME**

Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

Pastor: In this season of Advent, our senses will be overwhelmed and we will be bombarded with all manner of distractions that will work against our true observance of the significance of the season. We will find ourselves being more concerned about less important things, and we will neglect the things that we should truly be about. This morning, we realize the difficulties that we face, and the poor job we have done with our response to the Word of God. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things 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

ABSOLUTION

Pastor:

As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus Christ, and by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We pray thankfully and celebrate our Easter joy of our salvation in His Holy Name. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN: #79 – Hail to the Lord's Anointed, vs 1,3,5

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison):

As John the Baptist let us make the hills flat and the pathways straight for our coming Lord Jesus. Amen.

Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God has called us. Alleluia.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40, 1-11 (ESV) *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, Pastor Steve*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak 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.

A voice cries: "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. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

The Word of God Stands Forever

A 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. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

The Greatness of God

Go on 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!"

Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He 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.

PSALM - Psalm 85 (ESV) (Recited whole verse by whole verse, congregation in BOLD)

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and forever shall be, world without end. Amen

THE SECOND LESSON: 2nd Peter – 3:8-15a (ESV)

But 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. The 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.

But 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.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting 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!

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Final Words

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you Oh Lord.

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And 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.

I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Oh Christ.

SERMON "Every Valley Shall Be Exalted!" **Pastor Steve Dygert**

SERMON HYMN: #72 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel, vs 1,4,5,7

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed (C)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; [God of God], Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. "Who, for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

"And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

PRAYERS OF PRAISE, Let us Pray: (*Prayer Response*) Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER; WORDS OF INSTITUTION; PREPARATION OF THE TABLE; THE DISTRIBUTION;
THE COMMUNION DISMISSAL BLESSING**

SENDING HYMN - #83 – Once In Royal David's City, vs 1,3,6

SPECIAL MUSIC – Jeff, Frank, Ron, Pr. Steve – see handout

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, **please place your cell phones on mute** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

A Big Thank You! To everyone who helped to make yesterday a rousing success at the El Jobean Parade. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Christmas Eve Day and Evening. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We will be having our regular worship at 10 am Sunday morning, and our Christmas Eve Tenebrae service at 6 pm.

Bible Study. Bible Study after church will resume on January 7th. We will also begin our study of the Book of James on Wednesdays starting January 3rd at 10 am at the church. Y'all are invited and bring your friends!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Please use a prayer request card if you have a specific prayer request this morning. It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise give them to the ushers at the time the offering is collected.

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