



Second Sunday of Advent — December 6, 2020

Prelude: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* - Lee Dengler

Confession of Sin (*read responsively*)

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
who comes to wake us from sleep and leads us along the path of grace. **Amen.**

L: Let us prepare the way of the LORD by confessing our sin against God and one another.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: God of morning sun and evening stars,

**C: We confess that we have not prepared
for your merciful reign among us.**

**We ignore our neighbors in need
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us, renew us and lead us
as we wait impatiently for the coming of a savior.**

**Fill our hearts with faith, that we like Mary, the mother of Jesus,
may rejoice in your good news. Amen.**

L: Comfort, comfort, now my people, says your God.

May you feel the love of the Creator who made you,

† find renewed life in the Word who dwells among you,
and be filled with hope by the Holy Spirit within you.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #249 – “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” Verses 1-4

**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 you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**4 Stretch forth your hand, our health
restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.**

Greeting:

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

The Gloria – “You Are Holy”



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



²
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. O God of peace,

C: Stir up our hearts, to prepare the way for your coming among us. Strengthen us to serve you with renewed hearts and committed lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

- Becky Barry

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "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. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon 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 tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

"Light One Candle" vs 2

**2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (*Lector begins, congregation responds*)

– Brian Buteyn

L: ¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C: ²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

L: ⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those
who turn their hearts to you.

C: ⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

L: ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C: ¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

L: ¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

C: ¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Mark 1.1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: “A Story of Peace” – *Pastor Joe*

Hymn of the Day: ELW #256 – “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

**1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.**

**2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.**

**Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.**

**3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.**

Prayers of Intercession – *Each petition ends with the following response:*

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Great Thanksgiving:

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer:

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion: *We invite you to share the bread and wine/grape juice with one another at home.*

Communion Hymn: ELW #254 – “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

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| <p>1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.</p> | <p>2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.</p> |
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Post Communion Prayer and Blessing

Dismissal - L: Go in peace. Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* - Robert Powell

Thanks to Today's Worship Leaders:

- Joe Larson, Pastor
- Alpha Roeszler, Piano
- Becky Barry, Lector
- Brian Buteyn, Psalm Leader
- Tammy Lanaghan, Media Coordination

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** and a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation—welcoming all people, including LGBTQ individuals.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: We are not holding onsite worship at Temple Beth El Synagogue until our new camera system gets installed. Stream services continue on Sundays at 10 am via Facebook at: www.facebook.com/stmarkslutheranfargo.

FELLOWSHIP TIME: Join us on Zoom through the internet or by phone following Sunday worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84725599>
You can also call into this meeting at: 1-301-715-8592; Meeting ID: 874 725 599; Password: 037564

YOUR PRAYERS ARE INVITED for the sick: Dorothy Nelsen (Pr. Joe's sister), Shirley Ann McCorquodale (grandmother of Ryu Kroshus), Roger Beauchene (husband of Jodi), Kathy Johnson, Alpha Roeszler, Brad Graber, Tierra Nueva Uno in Guatemala, Florence Roholt, Michael and Carmen Zoughbi, the Schuster family, Patti Pranke, Jerry Jacobson, Kermit & Marilyn Jensen, Leah Martell Torkelson, Chris Maki, Avis Twamley, and Karla Ware.

ST MARK'S CIRCLE OF PRAYER: David and Kristen Pagel; Alpha and Bill Roeszler; Bracken Rourke; and Doug Rymph.

Fargo Conference Prayer: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fargo – Tim Stoa, Pastor



ADVENT STUDY OFFERED: The Education Committee is offering a study called, “God With Us”, at 11:30am on the Sundays of Advent: **Dec. 6, 13, and 20**. The booklets are available at the office or we can email you a downloadable document. We also have Advent Calendars available. If you would like either the booklet and/or Advent calendar mailed to you, please call or email the church office, 701.235.5591. We have several copies available!

EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION SET! Tricorne is set to begin the installation of the new video/camera system at Temple Beth El on Wednesday, December 9. The first Sunday of livestreaming from the synagogue will depend on how quickly it is installed and how quickly we learn how to operate it!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS NEEDED: The Red River Health Project serves people with HIV/AIDS in this region. We are looking for volunteers to sign up to buy Christmas presents for the individuals in the group. Our recommendation is for \$25 per person and \$10 for shipping outside the FM area if needed. Please sign up by emailing Pastor Joe pastorjoe@stmarkslutheranfargo.com or Naomi admin@stmarkslutheranfargo.com by **today!** The recipient's name will remain anonymous, but you will be given suggestions for particular gifts.

QUERY BOOK DISCUSSION: Query is a monthly book club for LGBTQIA+ individuals and friends. Our next gathering will be via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, from 5:30 -7:00 pm. Our December selection is: “You Should See Me in a Crown” by Leah Johnson.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: A service of “Lessons & Carols” will be livestreamed via Facebook on December 24, 2020, at 5 p.m. The recorded version will be available on St. Mark's YouTube site as well as our Facebook page.