

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Setting 10

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee

Ernst Pepping

GATHERING

In this season of waiting, of longing, of looking for you to come into our world We are seeking light [Light candles] In our own lives We are seeking light In our neighborhoods We are seeking light In our families We are seeking light In our work We are seeking light In Grace We are seeking light In COVID-19 relief We are seeking light In our nation We are seeking light In our world We are seeking light In our world We are seeking light In your Word, we are seeking light In your Word, we are seeking light Seek and you shall find Knock and the door will be opened

Ask and it will be given to you
Jesus Christ you are the light of the world
May we have eyes to see you

And ears to hear you

Make your light known, today

Lighting Hymn He Came Down v.2 # 253

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

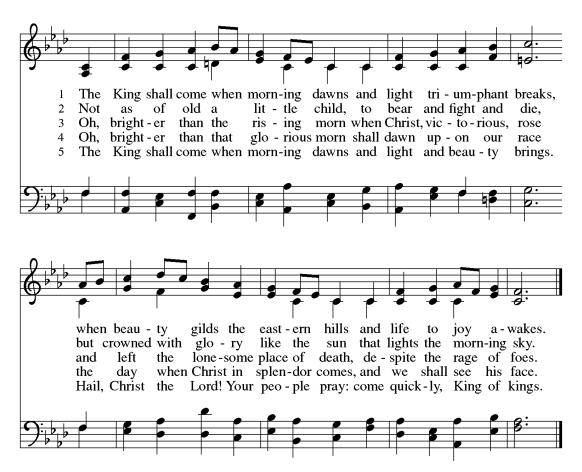
Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The King Shall Come



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

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

KYRIE



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.

Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

Canticle of Praise



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified 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

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

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. ¹The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ®The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ¹Get 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!" ¹¹Osee, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹¹He 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.

The Word of the Lord: Thanks be to God!

Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)

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

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

8 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

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

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this

way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

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."

This is the Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. We pray especially for . . . (*current local, national, or international issues of peace or justice may be named*). Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work (*especially Nicholas of Myra*). Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us. O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

Special Music

Carol & Bill Gusenius will do a vocal duet Christmas Stars music by Helen Gusenius, text by Edwin Gusenius

Offering Prayer

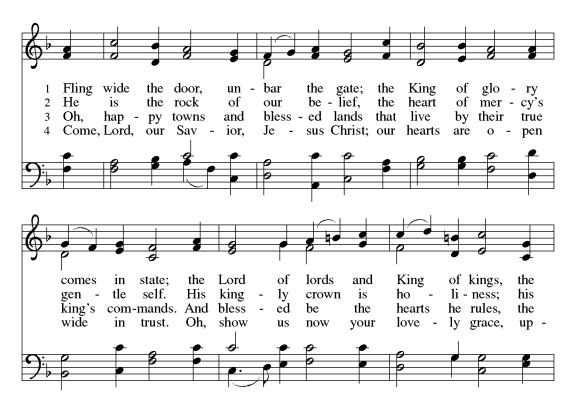
Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

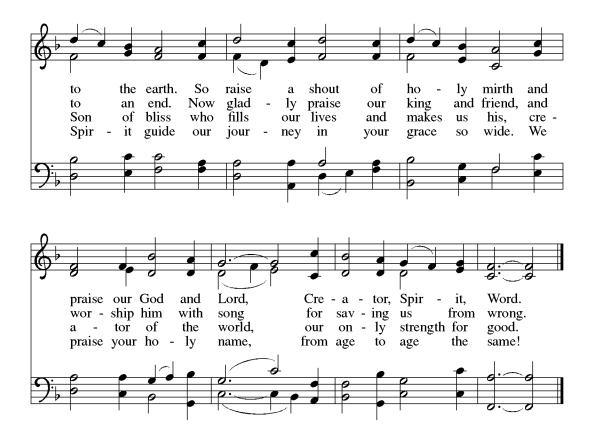
Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

+ now and forever. Amen.

Fling Wide the Door





Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 1704; arr. hymnal version

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee

Paul Manz

Messiah Lutheran Church 10/31/2020

	Actual Oct-20	Actual Jan - Oct 20	Budget Jan - Oct 20
Revenue	\$10,888.22	\$134,277.77	\$123,550.00
Expenses	11,190.96	128,746.99	137,325.26
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$302.74	\$5,530.78	-\$13,775.26
Reserve Balance	\$75.828.88		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray Members of Messiah:

Danials' friand

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, we pray especially for the family of Har Shogren

Friends of Messiah

Donina Siejksai		Nalia Guewell	LIIGIIU OLKIISIGII DIUCG
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Chip Brock	Bill and Caroline Brock's son	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter		

Karla Goowert

Friend of Kircton Bruce

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson	T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Daniel & Miranda Norland Randy/Gretchen's son & wife

Kaylie Ines

Please pray for all affected by Covid-19: Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. Also, we pray for all who are being negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption.

WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS

Hurricane lota, a Category 5 storm, headed directly to the same Central American communities that had been devastated by Hurricane Eta less than two weeks earlier.

Needless to say, the situation is dire. Hurricane Eta displaced thousands of people, overwhelming shelters and forcing families to sleep under tarps or plastic sheeting. They had to ride out the second deadly storm under these conditions. Combined with the current pandemic, things could hardly be worse.

Pablo Antonio Guerra was one of Eta's victims. He lost his home and everything in it when the storm struck. "And now we have another storm bearing down on us," he said. "We are really afraid."

Although he needs to rebuild, he can't yet, nor can his neighbors. In the first place, he needed to get his family to safety, out of lota's path. More heavy rains further threaten lives with the possibility of landslides. Pablo wonders how his family, including his young grandchildren, will stay alive during this difficult time.

The Lutheran World Relief team is urging help for our neighbors to the south. In a year of unprecedented crises their resources are stretched thin. Any help would be more than welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to give your offering online you can do so on our website at https://www.melclindsborg.org/giving. We are grateful for your generous support.

Please pray for **USD 400** and all teachers, students, administrators, and staff, that they might remain healthy and mindful of best health practices, that learning be deep and strong, and the all might benefit from the community of learning.

Dala Pantry – Remember that Messiah Lutheran members are asked to provide the following items for the Dala Pantry donations – canned chicken, tuna, pickles, vienna sausages, peanut butter & jelly; Bethany is asked to bring single serving macaroni and cheese, ravioli, applesauce, fruit cups and canned tuna.

The Dala Pantry has gained a few new volunteers but is still looking for people to be of assistance from time to time. Please let Logan know if you are interested! daweslm@bethanylb.edu.

Advent messages will be posted on the Messiah Facebook page each Wednesday in Advent. Please watch for them in the upcoming weeks. They may get to be posted on our website as well, Pastor is uncertain of the technology. ©

As Covid numbers in our area are skyrocketing, **our worship has returned to recorded only.** Please watch the website for the youtube link each Sunday morning at 9:30.

DECEMBER 6, 2020 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



God has good news for all people.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the good news

Monday Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort my people

Tuesday 2 Peter 3:8-15a Promise of the Lord's coming

Wednesday Malachi 4:1-6 The great day of the Lord

Thursday Matthew 3:1-10 The preaching of John the Baptist

Friday 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Gratitude for God's mercy Saturday Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 A prayer for God's peace

Sunday John 1:6-8, 19-28 John's witness to the light

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"[T]he voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the

Lord, make his paths straight." Mark 1:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you that through your Son, Jesus Christ, love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Amen. (Psalm 85:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Generous God, may this gift of food strengthen us to walk in your way of comfort, hope, and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord God feed you like a shepherd and keep you safe. (Isaiah 40:11)

HYMN OF THE WEEK

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS 🦃



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life. Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is some good news you have heard recently?
- What events in the news do people consider to be positive news or good news?
- The word gospel means good news. How is the coming of Christ into our world good news for you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 1:1-8.

The beginning of a book helps set up what the book is about and where the story is going. This is true of the Gospel of Mark as well. Mark 1:1-8 is part of Mark's prologue (vv. 1-13) and was used in ancient writings with this very purpose in mind: to give information that helps people follow the story as it unfolds. Mark's point is that good news ("good tidings" in Isaiah 40:9), the gospel, is beginning to happen through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This good news is linked to John the baptizer who is himself reminiscent of Elijah. When Elijah comes again, God's people will encounter God's promised deliverance (Malachi 4:5). That future time is now present through John and through Jesus. John's message of repentance (v. 4) will be continued by Jesus when he says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:14). Where do you see the good news of Jesus happening today?

Pray: Merciful God, we thank you for fulfilling your promise of hope and peace through the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE 6



Good news has a positive effect on people. Isaiah 40 gives prophetic comfort to God's people. What word of comfort or encouragement can you give to someone this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Set up a Christmas nativity set in your home. Place the wise men further away from the set for now. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope and the second one of peace. Pause for a moment to sit in silence and look upon the nativity set and think about the coming of Jesus.

Say this Bible verse: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people. (Psalm 85:8a)

Pray: Lord, help us to prepare the way of the Lord. Give us peace and hope. Amen.

In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org