

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Sunday, November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent – PREPARE YE**

“PONDER”

Theme – *We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple. Psalm 48:9*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand.



Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C: Amen

A: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

**C: Be strong and courageous, be careful to live according to everything Moses
commanded.**

A: Do not let God's Word depart from your mouth.

C: But meditate on it day and night.

A: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

**C: Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts
because nothing is impossible with our God!**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (official Lyric Video) Aly Aleigha

<https://youtu.be/IJsX-9laeK4>

Confession and Absolution

P: Almighty God, because nothing is impossible with you we come into your presence confessing our sin, confident of your mercy and forgiveness. For lack of reverence; for calculating minds; for going along with the majority –

C: O Christ, forgive us.

P: For selfishness that dares not face truth; laziness content with half-truth; for artificial life and worship –

C: O Christ, forgive us.

P: For self-indulgence; for being pompous and puffed up with self-importance –

C: O Christ, forgive us.

P: For cynicism about our fellow Christians; for cruel indifference; for being satisfied with things as they are and failing to trust that with you nothing is impossible –

C: O Christ, forgive us.

P: For token concern for the poor, the lonely and the loveless people; for confusing faith with good feelings –

C: O Christ, forgive us.

P: For everything in us that hides your divine power –

C: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

P: Hear the good news! Because of his death and resurrection, Jesus is our Savior. The Lord God has given to him the throne of his father David. Jesus reigns over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Therefore, you are fully and forever forgiven in Jesus' name.

C: Nothing is impossible with our God!

Greeting

P: 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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise – Hark the Glad Sound the Savior Comes! (Koine)

<https://youtu.be/vB4OV2w-FuE>

Prayer of the Day

A: Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord,

C: that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by the angel Gabriel to the virgin Mary, may by his cross and resurrection be convinced anew that absolutely nothing is impossible with you; for you live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Are We There Yet – Peace”

https://youtu.be/Fim8Ctd_zHc

Reader One: Our Advent journey begins with rules of the road. We are on the way to where God would have us be, and we're not there yet. But how shall we go? We shall go together, as one body, living and trusting in one another. We shall go as this community of faith, working side by side, and leaning into the grace of God every step of the way. We shall go in peace.

Reader Two: Isaiah says that in days to come, the nations shall stream to the mountain of the Lord, and there we will beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks; there, we will learn war no more. God will teach us peace.

*Reader One: We light this first candle to burn as a sign of peace among all people.
(Light one candle on the wreath.)*

Reader Two: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Hymn with lyrics)
<https://youtu.be/utpZAlgcWFU>

The Word

Old Testament reading – Joshua 1:7-9

⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. ⁹ I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle reading – Colossians 3:15-17

¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<https://youtu.be/p7BpC2S2yuc>

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

<https://youtu.be/Z8wbqK4BZdM>

Homily – Ponder Anew – Pastor Barnes

<https://youtu.be/ciJTO4w-MBk>

Music – The Angel Gabriel – Kings College, Cambridge

<https://youtu.be/pliqObTHxUQ>

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

P: Heavenly Father, we have a lot in common with Mary. When we consider the enormity of the promises you have made accompanying the birth of Jesus, we also ask, “How will this be?” To which you answer back in your Word,

C: Nothing is impossible with our God.

P: Father, every promise you have made about Jesus and our redemption purchased through his shed blood and empty tomb will happen. Indeed, your great and glorious promises are always “Yes and Amen.” And so we confess,

C: Nothing is impossible with our God.

P: Jesus, on your Second Advent, you will finish making all things new—changing this sinful and dying world into the New Jerusalem. This promise is so overwhelming that you remind us,

C: Nothing is impossible with our God.

P: Father, heal the pain in our families. Restore unity. Release compassion and kindness. And let the love of Jesus pervade and permeate our homes. We believe that,

C: Nothing is impossible with our God.

P: Father, through your Holy Spirit, empower us to think of others more often than ourselves; not to keep a record of wrongs; and no longer rehearse the ways others have hurt us, and the ways we’ve hurt them. Remind us again that,

C: Nothing is impossible with our God.

P: And so we say with Mary, we are your servants, Lord. Let it be to us according to your Word.

C: We pray in Jesus’ glorious and grace-filled name. Amen.

Music – The Magnificat – Christian Music with Lyrics – Koine

<https://youtu.be/iqeY7JQ4rAg>

The Lord's Prayer

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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Benediction

P: Prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
C: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

P: So that whatever we do, in word or deed.
C: We do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

P: Giving thanks to God the Father through him because
C: nothing is impossible with our God!

Closing Music – Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding
First Church, Plymouth NB
<https://youtu.be/VCrEt11-SFU>

Dismissal

A: Pondering the promise born unto us in Bethlehem,
we serve in Christ's name.
C: Facing the world, we go to serve.