

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 13, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent – PREPARE YE**

“PROCLAIM”

Theme – *The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness. Psalm 145:6*

*“My Soul Proclaims Your greatness” – vs.1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I
sing my Savior’s praise! You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace. Now
every land and every age this blessing shall proclaim –
great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.*



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: Let us proclaim the name of the Lord and ascribe greatness to our God!

A: He is the Rock, his work is perfect and all his ways are just.

C: He is the God of faithfulness who does no wrong.

A: John came proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

**C: As it is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet –
all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!**

Opening Music – All Angels Sing “The Angel Gabriel”

<https://youtu.be/yHuokdjT4UY>

Confession and Absolution

P: Moses writes in our first lesson, “I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his work is perfect and all his ways are just. He is the God of faithfulness who does no wrong.” Therefore, with contrite and broken hearts, we confess our sins.

A time of silence and reflection

P: Most merciful God,

C: We are unprepared for your coming, for we have sinned. In our thinking and speaking and doing, we have ignored and disobeyed your will. We have not obeyed in faith. We implore your forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, and seek the power of your Holy Spirit to restore our peace.

P: He who is coming has come, born among us to live our life and die our death, and guarantee our resurrection. For his sake your sins are forgiven. For with God nothing is impossible.

C: Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

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.

Music of Praise – Fling Wide the Door (Marc Gamble)

<https://youtu.be/6eopKn8rkdY>

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus whose birth, baptism, teaching, miracles, death and resurrection empower us to see your mighty salvation. With the open eyes of faith we thank, praise, serve and obey you; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Larry Daniels “Are We There Yet? – TRUST”

<https://youtu.be/ITFqkaoZ7wU>

Reader One: *One thing we have learned on our Advent journey is that it is better not to go alone. We live in a do-it-yourself culture that celebrates the individual. But faith is not something that we can do on our own. We need companions on the journey; we need others to support us and strengthen us and encourage us. We put our journey in the hands of many people around us; and although it is a risk, we are better for it. We learn to trust that someone has our back, as we make this journey of faith.*

Reader Two: *Matthew reminds us that when God chose to come to earth the first time, God chose to trust in people to help make it happen. God trusted in Mary, and God trusted in Joseph. In turn, we trust in God to be faithful to the promise and to sustain us through many others as we continue our journey of faith.*

Reader One: *We light the candles of peace, hope, joy, and trust, as our circle is complete.*

(Light four candles 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, hope, joy, and trust.*



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

The Word

Old Testament reading – Deuteronomy 32:2-4

² May my teaching drop like the rain,
my speech condense like the dew;
like gentle rain on grass,
like showers on new growth.
³ For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;
ascribe greatness to our God!
⁴ The Rock, his work is perfect,
and all his ways are just.
A faithful God, without deceit,
just and upright is he;

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

Epistle reading – 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

15 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,

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

Holy Gospel – Luke 3:1-16

<https://youtu.be/l9wklQrAQQk>

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

³ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am

not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

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

Children's Time – "Read All about It!"

<https://youtu.be/8Q1AvMvu3GI>

Homily – Pastor Barnes: Prepare Ye – Proclaim!

<https://youtu.be/J7aq-IMaick>

Music – Prepare the Royal Highway – Children of Gethsemane Lutheran

<https://youtu.be/OovruxWkQkU>

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: God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

A: Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

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 (*Numbers 6*)

P: Now may the Lord bless and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you His peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Closing Music – Joy to the World (2017)

Gabriel Trumpet Ensemble and Mormon Tabernacle Choir

<https://youtu.be/7r3VVMUhAxU>

Dismissal

A: Jesus said, as the Father has sent me, so I send you.
Let us go and proclaim the joy of Jesus birth and our salvation!

C: Thanks be to God.