

Our Savior Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent – PREPARE YE

“PRAYER”

Theme – *But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me. Psalm 69:13*

*⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything **by prayer and supplication** with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philipians 4:4-7*



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: God promises to be with us and keep us wherever we go.

A: He will not leave us until he has done what he has promised.

C: Surely the Lord is in this place!

A: This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

C: For God sent John the Baptist –

A: To turn the hearts of parents to their children.

C: To make ready a people prepared!

Music – People, Look East (Canto Deo Choirs)

<https://youtu.be/Vwel-dILSAY>

Confession and Absolution

P: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry –

C: Too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

P: Forgive what our lips tremble to name

C: What our hearts can no longer bear.

P: And what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

C: As parents, we have not fully loved our children.

P: As children, we have not fully loved our parents.

C: Set us free from a past that we cannot change.

P: Open to us a future where we can be changed.

C: And grant us grace to grow more and more in the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

P: Surely the Lord is in this place as the God of love and kindness who forgives you, frees you, heals you, strengthens you and raises you up to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. He also sends his Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of parents to their children.

C: To make ready a people prepared!

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 – My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (Chaz Bowers)

<https://youtu.be/RzIqsFMhUOk>

Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty God, we thank you that in your providence you sent John the Baptist to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents to make ready a people prepared for the coming of our Savior; 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

“Are We There Yet? – HOPE”

<https://youtu.be/O7mSb9Ne514>

Reader One: Every journey faces the unknown. And anxiety can sometimes overwhelm us. There is too much to do; our lists are long; our calendars are filled up; we worry that something will go wrong, or we won't end up in the right place or take the right route. Getting lost is a real possibility on a journey. And yet. We claim hope for the journey, because we follow the one who will travel with us and sustain us on the way.

Reader Two: Isaiah says that there is one who is to come who will be the fulfillment of all our hope. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on this one, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. We place our hope in this one.

Reader One: We light the candles of peace and of hope to give us strength for the journey.

(Light two 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 and hope.



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

The Word

Old Testament reading – Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Epistle reading – 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Instructions concerning Prayer

2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For

there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
⁶who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.

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

Holy Gospel – Luke 1:5-25

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

<https://youtu.be/iQYhSPcq8-o>

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸Zechariah

said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹ The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ “This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

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

Children’s Time – Connecting to God

<https://youtu.be/g0MqAVfy17c>

Homily – Pastor Barnes – ‘Prayer’

<https://youtu.be/TxbnpOlfrul>

Music – Comfort, Comfort Now My People (First Plymouth, Lincoln NB)

<https://youtu.be/119C58F3dnQ>

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: St. Paul writes, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Compassionate Father, today we bring before you those with whom we share the closest relationships—members of our families. How we long for you to be gracious on behalf of our children, our parents, our siblings and our extended families. We believe that you will—

C: turn the hearts of parents to their children.

P: Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon the people we cherish. For our children, siblings and parents who don’t know you, bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus. For our family members who are living destructive lives, save them from themselves. In the meandering of their madness, bring the grandeur of your goodness. We believe that you will—

C: turn the hearts of children to their parents.

P: Tender Father, for family members who are having failing health, financial stress, emotional stress or mental illness, marital meltdown or relational disconnect, pour forth your life-giving Spirit. Where there is weariness, bring your presence; where there is hopelessness, bring encouragement; where there is despair, be a mighty and merciful God. We believe that you will—

C: turn the hearts of children to their parents.

P: To make ready a people prepared. We pray in the matchless and merciful name of Jesus.

C: 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: God heard Zechariah's prayer!

P: His wife Elizabeth bore a son name John.

C: Who turns the children of Israel to the Lord their God,

P: And goes before Jesus in the spirit and power of Elijah.

**C: To turn the hearts of the parents to the children
to make ready a people prepared!**

Closing Music – He Came Down (Concordia Christmas Concert)

<https://youtu.be/yPjFi4wz24>

Dismissal

A: Making your request known to God in prayer we go in trust and confidence.

C: We prayerfully go to serve the Lord!