



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

10:30 Service of the Word

Our theme on this second Sunday of Advent is hope. We do not look at hope as a stand-alone concept but within St. Paul's trio of faith, hope, and love. Each of these things impacts the other. Yet each also has its own role. Let's see what hope means and how it shapes our perspective and drives our lives.

Welcome to worship today!

This order of worship is designed to accompany what is happening live on Zoom. In order to make things work smoothly please keep your computer's microphone off unless you have a speaking part. It may be helpful to use a headset or earbuds to minimize feedback. You are welcome to use the chat feature to ask questions or provide feedback. Following worship we will have a time for those who would like to chat.

† OPENING †

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call us to prepare your way, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Opening Music My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness
(For music turn to Hymn 251 in the Red Hymnal)

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 ev'ry land and ev'ry age
This blessing shall proclaim –
Great wonders you have done for me,
And holy is your name.**

2. **To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
Their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
The lowly throned instead;
The hungry filled with good things,
The rich sent off unfed.**

3. **To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
Give honor to the Word,
And praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
One God, by all adored.**

Text: Luke 1:46-55; tr. With One Voice 1995; Music: English melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams; Text; copyright 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

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.

C: Amen

† WORD †

First Reading Jeremiah 29:11-14

B: ¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

Scripture Poetry Psalm 71:1-8 (*read together*)

**C: Lord, you are my shelter,
do not fail me.
You always do right;
deliver me, rescue me,
hear me and save me.
Be my rock and haven,
to whom I can always turn;
be my tower of strength,
keep me safe.
The ruthless and wicked trap me;
reach out to free me.
You are my hope, O Lord,
from the days of my youth.
I have relied on you since birth,
my strength from my mother's womb;
I will praise you always.
I am shunned like the plague,
but you keep me in your care.
I am filled with your praises,
all day I sing your glory.**

Second Reading Romans 8:18-30

D: [Paul writes] ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation (Romans 8:28)

C: Alleluia. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 12:15-21

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁵When Jesus became aware of [the conspiracy to destroy him], he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, ¹⁶and he ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁸“Here is my servant, whom I have chosen,
my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased.

I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

¹⁹He will not wrangle or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets.

²⁰He will not break a bruised reed
or quench a smoldering wick
until he brings justice to victory.

²¹And in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

E: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: 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.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 21)

E: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

✠ PRAYER ✠

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These three petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

A: Come to the nations, O sovereign God. Inspire governmental officials to strive for peace within their land and between countries. Remember the people of Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Guide the nations towards cooperative efforts when facing global issues. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

B: Come to the Jewish people, O covenant God, at this their festival of Hanukkah. End the world's anti-Semitism, and bring peace to Jerusalem. Guide the work of the global church and be with missionaries we support: the Rev. Karen Anderson and the Rev. Matthew Nickoloff. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

E: Come to our country, O righteous God. Teach us how to end discrimination and to value diversity. Bring political parties into helpful conversation with each other. Assist the unemployed, and uphold people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with messages of Christ's peace.

Special Music

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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

✠ ENDING ✠

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen

Closing Music Praise to You, O God of Mercy
(For music see Hymn 208 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Praise to you, O God of mercy;**
thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
thanks be to you forever!

2. **From of old you loved and sought us:**
thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us:
thanks be to you forever!
Strong is your faithfulness,
strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

3. **Praise to you, O God of mercy;**
thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

Text and Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950, copyright 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Snow Clearing Volunteers/Helpers

We are looking for people to help with snow removal at church this winter season. We work in teams; if you're not comfortable driving an easy-to-operate small plow truck, we also need snowblower operators, shovelers, and salters. If you can assist, please contact Tom Urbanic at turbanic@rochester.rr.com or 585-489-5965.

Mitten Tree

We will still have a Christmas tree in the gathering area for donations of gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats of all sizes. These items will be donated to the Victim Resource Center. The deadline is December 20th.

Church Christmas Tree Decorations

We are still setting up and decorating a church tree this year. Please see your newsletter for a collection of chrismsons– Christian symbols used to decorate a tree. Please select one and print it out (on heavy paper or cardstock if possible). You may cut it out or leave it uncut. Decorate it to your liking and put your name(s) on it. Then return it to church. We'll place them on the tree. During the Christmas Eve service we'll give some camera time to the decorations on the tree. Thank you!

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