

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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December 6, 2020

Kindle us with your spirit to be  
light shining in the darkness

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

## **Gathering**

### **GATHERING MUSIC**

#### **WELCOME**

#### **OPENING**

L The voice of one crying in the wilderness says:

**C "Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight."**

#### **Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 2**

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light two candles.*

#### **ADVENT SONG**

#### **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**

Light two candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

gently lead them homeward.

#### **BRIEF ORDER FOR 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 is kept for reflection.*

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**

## **GATHERING SONG**

## **Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory**

- 1 Joyous light of heav'nly glory,  
loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story,  
shine on ev'ry land and race.  
Now as evening falls around us,  
we shall raise our songs to you.  
God of daybreak, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts anew.
- 2 In the stars that grace the darkness,  
in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom,  
we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder,  
love that warms the weary soul,  
love that bursts all chains asunder,  
set us free and make us whole.
- 3 You who made the heaven's splendor,  
ev'ry dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice,  
let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving Spirit of salvation,  
lead us on to endless day.

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **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**

## **Word**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

#### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak 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. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every 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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get 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!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He 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.

**L: Word of God, Word of Life.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: 85:1-2, 8-13**

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

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

<sup>8</sup>I 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.

- <sup>9</sup>Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.  
<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.  
<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup>Righteousness 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.*

<sup>8</sup>Do 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. <sup>9</sup>The 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. <sup>10</sup>But 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.

<sup>11</sup>Since 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, <sup>12</sup>waiting 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? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

**L: Word of God, Word of Life.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**He Came Down**

**ELW 253**

He came down that we may have light;  
 he came down that we may have light;  
 he came down that we may have light;  
 hallelujah forevermore

**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.*

**P The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.**

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" "

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He 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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

### SPECIAL MUSIC

### Prepare the Royal Highway

**ELW 264**

Text: Frans Mikeal Fraizen 1772-1847; tr Lutheran Book of Worship Text 1978. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (see end of bulletin)

### PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

### Meal

### OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

P Generous God,

**C 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.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## SENDING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 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.**

#### SENDING SONG

#### Hark, the Glad Sound

ELW 239

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

#### DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

#### 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. 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.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. 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.**

### **“CALLED TO WORSHIP, SENT FORTH TO SERVE”**

<b>Pastor</b>	Pastor Carol Braun	<a href="mailto:osl@cheqnet.net">osl@cheqnet.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Evelyn Pamer	<a href="mailto:oslsec@cheqnet.net">oslsec@cheqnet.net</a>
<b>Musicians</b>	Linda Hultman/Patty Lehman/Kathy Rewal	
<b>Lector</b>	John Schrock	
<b>Recording Technician</b>	Dick Rewalt	

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### STAFF

Pastor Carol Braun  
 Linda Hultman, Keyboard  
 Patty Lehman, Keyboard  
 Evelyn Pamer, Secretary

# December '20

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
6 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	7 10:00 Worship Committee 7:00 Al-Anon	8 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 6:00 Council Meeting	9 9:30 Bible Study	10	11	12
13 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	14 10:00 WELCA Bible Study 1:00 Grief Support Group 7:00 Al-Anon	15 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS	16 9:30 Bible Study	<p><b><u>Pastor Carol's Days</u></b> Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays</p> <p><b><u>Secretary's Hours</u></b> Mon, Wed, Thur. &amp; Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</p>		

**Next Week's Readings: Isa 61:1-4, 8-11, Ps 126, 1 Thess 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28**

We will continue to stay in touch electronically by Email, Facebook and our website ([ironriverlutherans.org](http://ironriverlutherans.org)) We are posting worship services on YouTube and are sending out regular mail for those who do not have electronic connections. Let us continue to keep in touch with one another by phone, text, and emails and continue to lift in prayer all who are being affected by this virus.



Ellen Wagner, Willard Ogren, Guyann Lundeen, Ray Kangas, Lorin Wicklund, Rodney Lahti, Jane Jensen, Ken & Linda Watters, Jim DeRosia, Nancy Anderson, Gregg Levine, Darren Forsythe, Todd VanTil, Mark Hokkanen. *Remember those in nursing homes and assisted living who cannot have family, friends or volunteers visit them during this sad time.*



**WELCA Bible Study** Women's Bible Study will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**Grief Support Group, Monday December 14**

This group will be meeting on Monday, December 14, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at church in the fellowship hall. All are welcome, no matter what type of grief or feeling of loss you may be experiencing, to come join in the conversation. We are practicing safe distancing and mask wearing. Please share this information with anyone you feel may be suffering loss.

**Thank you, Himma Santikko, for creating the wreath greens for Advent.**

**Advent begins Sunday, November 29-Happy New Church Year!**

On Sunday Nov. 29, we begin the new year in the church calendar. Advent brings us the season of waiting as we go from darkness to light. We celebrate this Advent season over the next four weeks and in our worship service on those Sundays that come before Christmas Eve when we celebrate the Light of the World with the birth of the Christ Child.

Pastor Carol will be sharing these themes over these four weeks:

- Nov. 29- Jesus calls on us to be awake and ready.
- Dec. 6- We ask God to kindle us with the Holy Spirit to be light shining in the darkness.
- Dec. 13- We ask to be shown God's grace so that we may serve our neighbors in need.
- Dec. 20- We ask that our eyes may be open so that we may see God's presence.

We will celebrate with the Lighting of the Advent wreath each week with prayer and anticipation for the one who is to come.

**Connections with Creation**

Humans are grass. When God breathes, we fade like flowers. These words from the prophet Isaiah could seem as only bad news to us; yet recognizing our impermanence on the earth can also lead us to creativity and faithfulness. Grasses, crops, flowers, gardens, and forests all have their seasons. We too experience cycles of flourishing and fading. As Advent quickens our sense of urgency, turning our attention to such cycles can root us in the deeper promises of God. God's word, God's love, and God's presence never fade nor diminish. Mary Oliver closed one of her most beloved poems with a question about what we will do with our "wild and precious life." That very impermanence the prophet Isaiah speaks of when linking people and grass is the same thing that lends us the wildness and preciousness of a rare prairie flower.

**Are you leaving for warmer climates?** Please make sure to Evelyn know if you are heading to your winter homes for the season. Evelyn and Pastor Carol cannot stress enough how important it is to have your correct contact information! Please keep us updated.

Thank you!!



**The boxes of cards that WELCA has for sale has been replenished. If you would like to stop by the church and purchase boxes or single cards, they are available.**

**December Mission of the month  
\* Hurricane Eta relief for Honduras.**