

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Lay Assistants – Bill Schneeloch & Paul Brose
Lay Reader – Erika Slozak
Music Director – Jeff Windoloski
Hand Chime Director – Linda Slozak
Acolyte- Alex Provost
Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of Craig Lacey's 21st Birthday from Dad, Mom, and Rachel Lacey.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1–11, 2 Peter 3:8–14, Mark 1:1–8

You Are Prepared through Repentance for the Coming of the Lord

“The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes *“proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins”* (Mark 1:4). As the prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means, *“the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together”* (Isaiah 40:5), and the Good Shepherd *“will gather the lambs in His arms”* (Isaiah 40:11). He speaks *“tenderly to Jerusalem,”* and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Isaiah 40:1–2). What is more, He promises *“new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He *“is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9).

GREAT GIFT IDEAS: The Youth Group has the following fundraisers which make wonderful gifts or stocking stuffers for the Christmas Season. See Jane McClure

2018 SCRIPTURE CALENDARS \$8.00 each

2018 SCRIPTURE POCKET CALENDARS \$5.00 each

CHICO Bags: Small - \$8.00 each and Large - \$14.00 each

GOLDEN NOZZLE CAR WASH TICKETS \$6.00 each or 4/\$20.00

2018 ALTAR FLOWERS: The flower book pages for the New Year are now in the book. The cost for each bouquet is \$21.00. We can do up to three bouquets per Sunday. If anyone would like to have flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign up in the flower book located in the church foyer or see Jane McClure (562- 0492).

RADIO MINISTRY: There are many Sundays coming up that are available for sponsorship. Please help in the continuing outreach mission project of our Radio Broadcast of Sunday morning Worship. Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the program is now \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door.

Sunday Worship Bulletin

Second Sunday in Advent

10:00 a.m.
December 10,
A.D. 2017



Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

The Order of Holy Communion

AS WE GATHER

We see the truth of the words of today's Old Testament Reading all around us. "The grass withers, the flower fades" (Isaiah 40:8). The flowers of summer fade and fall as autumn arrives and gives way to winter. The car we saved up to purchase piles on mileage and begins to require costly repairs. The once-new wedding dress has yellowed with age. The things of this world wither and fade. But that's not the end of what the prophet Isaiah has to say: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." In our ever-changing fallen world, there is one thing that remains unchanged—God and His Word. Listen today to the unchanging promises of God for you, anchored in His Son, Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

✠ PRELUDE: *"Toccata in C Major"* Johann Pachelbel

✠ OPENING HYMN No. **349**: *"Hark the Glad Sound"*

✠ OPENING SENTENCES (Isaiah 40:8)

P: The grass withers,

C: the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

✠ LIGHTING of ADVENT CANDLE

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

As the wreath is lit, the congregation will sing:

**Light one candle for hope, One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for peace, One bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

✠ INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: "Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him."

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider

it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

✠ PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

✠ **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when and you will pick up a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray.

✠ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS No. **617**: *"O Lord, We Praise Thee"*

No. **618**: *"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"*

✠ POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ BENEDECTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

✠ CLOSING HYMN No. **343**: *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

✠ SILENT PRAYER

✠ POSTLUDE: Improvisation on "Was frag ich nach der Welt" (LSB 346)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS to adorn our altar for Christmas. Order forms are on the round table in the foyer. See Jane for any questions.

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God by heav'nly hosts adored, God of power, Lord of might, In Your glory infinite: Sing hosanna to the Lord; Blest is He, the Coming One. Sing hosanna, one and all; His eternal peace has won.

✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave

our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P: "He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

✠ PRAYER of the DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord,

C: to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds;

P: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 40:1–11 *("Comfort, comfort My people.")*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: 2 Peter 3:8–14 (*“The day of the Lord will come like a thief.”*)
But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1–8 (*John begins baptizing and preaching.*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY No. **347**: *“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”*

✠ SERMON: *“Comfort, Comfort My People”* Isaiah 40:1-11

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS
Choir Anthem: *“Prepare The Way Of The Lord”* William Rowan

✠ OFFERING HYMN NO. **781**: *“We Give Thee But Thine Own”* (Sts. 2)

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us peace. Lord of peace, during this season of Advent, prepare our hearts that we would be made ready to receive Your Son as He comes in His incarnation and birth, but also in His body and blood. Make us ever ready for His final coming on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us peace.

P: Lord of peace, You have called Your Church to bear witness to Christ's redeeming work. Grant that we boldly proclaim the Good News of the One who brings joy to the world through His life, death, and resurrection, that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us peace.

P: Lord of peace, You have instructed us to pray for workers in Your harvest field. Raise up faithful and loving teachers of Your Word so that Christ may be proclaimed near and far. Make us Your instruments to encourage and equip individuals for work in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us peace.

P: Lord of peace, we ask that You stretch forth Your almighty arm to protect the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our land. Support them, granting them courage and loyalty. Strengthen them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us peace.

P: Lord of peace, You are the creator and sustainer of all things. According to Your will, grant healing to those who suffer in body and mind. Look with favor upon Your servants, and if it is Your will, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept tribulation, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us peace.

P: Lord of peace, thank You for calling us to be Your people through Holy Baptism. Make us ready to receive Your Supper as we remember the One who is truly present in this Meal as He comes to us in Holy Communion. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer and grant us peace.