**December 6, 2020 -- Second Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude**

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins before God, taking a moment of silence for reflection.

Holy One, **we are not faithful in using your gifts.** **We forget the least of our siblings.** **We do not see your beautiful image in one another.** **We are infected by sin** **that divides your beloved community.** **Open our hearts to your coming,** **open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,** **open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved children of God, hear the good news! Through ☩ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

**John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord’s way for the kingdom of heaven is near.**

Bless us as we light two 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.** **Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

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. Amen.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-11

 1Comfort, O comfort my people,
  says your God.
 2Speak 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.

 3A voice cries out:
 “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
  make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
 4Every 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.
 5Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
  and all people shall see it together,
  for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

 6A voice says, “Cry out!”
  And I said, “What shall I cry?”
 All people are grass,
  their constancy is like the flower of the field.
 7The grass withers, the flower fades,
  when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
  surely the people are grass.
 8The grass withers, the flower fades;
  but the word of our God will stand forever.
 9Get 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!”
 10See, the Lord God comes with might,
  and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,
  and his recompense before him.
 11He 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.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** 85:1-2, 8-13

1You have been gracious to your land, O Lord;
  you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
2**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people**
  **and blotted out all their sins.**
8I 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.
9**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,**
  **that your glory may dwell in our land.**
10Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
  righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
11**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,**
  **and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
12The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
  and our land will yield its increase.
13**Righteousness shall go before the Lord**
  **and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**Second Reading:** 2 Peter 3:8-15a

8Do 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. 9The 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. 10But 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.
  11Since 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, 12waiting 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? 13But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

  14Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15aand regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8 *(please stand as you are able)*

The holy Gospel according to St. Mark. **Glory to you, O**

1The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
  2As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
 “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
  who will prepare your way;
 3the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
  ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
  make his paths straight,’ ”
4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And 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. 6Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He 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. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

**Sermon**

**Hymn:** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

*(those at home are welcome to sing; those attending in person are invited to meditate on the lyrics)*

“Comfort, comfort now my people, tell of peace!” So says our God.

Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.

To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,

Calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

**Apostles’ Creed**  *(please stand as you are able)*

**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** (*sit or kneel for the prayers)*

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

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.**

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.**

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.**

We pray all who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. We pray especially for Pam Peterson, Sue Dowty, Karen Tarchinski, Pastor Dave Barnet, Pastor John Tindell, and all those we lift up to you now, aloud or in our hearts…. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

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.**

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

**The Great Thanksgiving** *(please stand as you are able)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Wherever we are, we are gathered into one by the Holy Spirit and can boldly pray as our Lord has taught us:

**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.**

*Those participating in worship at home will be instructed to eat the bread and drink the wine/juice.*

*Those attending in person are asked to wait until they are invited forward, pew by pew. Please pick up an envelope from the communion rail. After you hear the words, “this is the body of Christ given for you,” pull down your mask and eat the wafer. Take the envelope with you and drop in the recycling box or trash as you depart.*

Let us pray: **God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.** **Amen.**

**Blessing and Sending**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Creator, ☩ Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

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**Thanks to those who serve:**

**Presiding Minister:** Rev. Susan Irvin

**Assisting Minister:** Tim Irvin

**Pianist:** Arlene Ydstie

**Usher:** Dennis Allwein

**Acolyte:** Brandi Perry

**Sacristan:** Jim Haugen

**Communion Setup:**  Claudia Halliburton

**This week at Our Saviour’s:**

Tuesday at 10:30 am Ecumenical Bible Study, via Zoom

Wednesday at 10:00 am Quilters

Thursday at 11:00 am Bible Study, via Zoom

 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl

Friday at 11:00 am Coffee Hour, via Zoom

**Upcoming:**

**Sunday, December 13** Third Sunday of Advent worship

**Announcements**

**THANKS** to all who made our Christmas Bazaar a success!

Please call the church by noon Friday to request a seat for worship.

Please send announcements or prayer requests to the church office, by phone or email, by Thursday for inclusion in the prayers on the following Sunday.

The video of Holden Evening Prayer for Midweek Advent worship is available on our website and Facebook page.

**2020 Christmas Poinsettias**

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of, or in honor of, anyone please include your check and return this completed form to the Church Office before

December 10th.

The cost is $12.00: Write your check to OSLC, memo line: “Poinsettia”. Thank you.

In **memory of/honor/celebration of/acknowledgement of**: **(Please circle one)**

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You may take your poinsettia home after the 10am service on January 3. Please contact the church office to make other arrangements if you are unable to pick it up that morning.