
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, December 10, 2017

As We Gather

Christmas is fast approaching. Are you ready? This time of year, our to-do lists grow in length: decorations, food, gifts, shopping, parties, and more. As we check each item off the list, we convince ourselves that we are more prepared to celebrate Christmas. Today, however, we encounter John the Baptizer in the Gospel. John calls us to prepare for our Savior's coming in a different way, a more significant way. John calls us to repent. Repentance is more than just something to check off our to-do list. It's a change of heart that the Holy Spirit brings about. Look to the Lord this Advent for the repentance and forgiveness He gives as we prepare for His Son's coming. That's how to be truly ready for Christmas.

Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* LSB 347

Stand Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your

boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

- P** 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.

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: Ps. 80:3

- P** Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- C** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- P** You brought a vine out of Egypt;
it took deep root and filled the land.
- C** Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Kyrie

LSB 186

- C** *Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P ♪ The Lord be with you.

C ♪ And with thy spirit.

P ♪ Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

- 1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- 2 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.
- 3 A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 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.
- 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- 6 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.
- 7 The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.
- 9 Get you 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!”

- 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
- 11 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

C Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

P Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But 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. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting 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! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand Alleluia Verse

C  Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And 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. ⁸I 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 Thee, O Christ.

Sit Apostles Creed

C 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,

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Lord, You sent John the Baptist as Your messenger to preach the coming of Your Son. Continue to send pastors to Your Church who will be heralds of good news, faithfully calling people to repentance, proclaiming the Gospel and administering Baptism for the remission of sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, You are patient and do not wish that anyone should perish. We give You thanks that in Your great mercy, You continue to allow the Gospel to go forth so that all might reach repentance. Help us to live lives worthy of Your call, and keep us ever faithful as we wait for the new heavens and the new earth You have promised. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, You are the God of all comfort. Look favorably upon _____ and all who suffer from mental or physical infirmity. Grant them healing and patience in the face of affliction, and never let them forget that You are with them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, You invite us again to Your table today, that we might receive the medicine of immortality in the body and blood of Your Son. May we receive the Sacrament rightly, so that with faith strengthened and sins forgiven our lives might be lived in holiness and godliness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, as we in the Church on earth wait for the coming of Your Son, we remember all the saints who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us all safe in Your arms until that day when You will gather all Your people to that place where righteousness dwells. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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.

Benediction

LSB 202

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.

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338

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