

2nd Sunday in Advent

Advent Patience, Advent Promise, and Advent People

Sunday, December 4, 2011

Theme for Our Service:

Advent Patience, Advent Promise, and Advent People

The call of Advent is not the cry of fear or terror but the call to patience amid our changing world, to persistence and endurance in the faith, to the promise on which we stand, and to the people shaped by the peace of the Lord for this day and this moment. The world sees every new thing as a distraction from all that is wrong around us and in us. Only Jesus can satisfy the desire for something new. His grace is that new refreshment each and every day and yet His grace remains forever the same. Every Advent we hear this call to slow down, to be patient in the face of a frantic world, and to focus on the peace that comes from the Word made flesh for us and our salvation. Our lives are destined by God for the eternal tomorrow, made possible by the death and resurrection of Christ. That day will come; we have His promise. That day will deliver us to everlasting peace; we have His promise.

Our Worship Service This Week:

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service

Words of Welcome

At this time, Pastor Iovine will outline some parish news and information. For further information on these announcements, please look in the "Saint Matthew's Matters" insert in your bulletin AND on our church's website, www.smelcnewmilford.org and click the "Saint Matthew's Matters" under the "About Us" tab.

Prelude - Pre-Service Prayer & Meditation

"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry," arr. Thomas Geischen

↑ Opening Hymn

"Hark the Glad Sound," Lutheran Worship Hymn #29

Hark the glad sound! That Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With your beloved name.

Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-61
Tune: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Invocation and Opening Sentences

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Restore us, O God, and let Your face shine on us,

C: **That we may be saved.** *Psalm 80:3*

P: Give ear to Your people, O Shepherd of Israel,

C: **and lead Your people like a flock.** *Psalm 80:1, adapted*

P: You forgive all the iniquity of Your people;

C: **You cover up all our sin and show us Your steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Psalm 85:2

Confession and Forgiveness

(Silence for reflection)

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know---the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed---but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

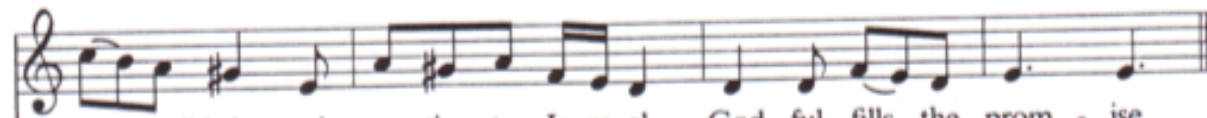
C: **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

The first Advent candle is lit. We sing the second verse of the hymn "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"




1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is-ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Kyrie

We cry out, as God's people, "Lord, have mercy!"



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise: This is the Feast

During Advent, we omit the Hymn of Praise until it is sung on Christmas

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Once You sent to Your people a messenger to be the voice calling them to repentance. Raise up many voices in our own day that we may hear Your call to renewal and be restored by the grace of Your forgiveness and found ready when our Lord comes in His glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.**

↓ Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

(Comfort, comfort my people, says the Lord our God.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for the 2nd Sunday in Advent is taken from Isaiah, Chapter 40:

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

(Saint Peter reminds us that God's time and our time are not the same and we must be ready at all times for our Lord's return.)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from 2nd Peter, Chapter 3:

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

↑ Alleluia and Verse

Luke 3:4b

P: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

C: **All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

(Our Lord's coming begins with the voice sent to prepare the world for His appearing.)

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Mark, the 1st Chapter:

C: **Glory 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 to You, O Christ.**

Creed

Apostle's Creed

**A: 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.**

↓ Hymn of the Day

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry," Lutheran Worship hymnal #14

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleaned be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;
Without your grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, And make us rise to fall no more;
Oh, let your face upon us shine And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749, tr. Composite

Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Sermon

↓ Offering

Voluntary

"The Night Will Soon Be Ending," arr. Melvin Rotermund

↑ Prayer of the Church

Our weekly prayers are responsive in nature. At the end of each petition, "Lord, in Your mercy," is spoken, to which the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."

- P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- E Gracious God, You sent John the Baptist to herald the coming Messiah and proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In these latter days, You send pastors to proclaim the same repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and through them You lead Your people to trust in Your salvation. Look with kindness upon all pastors, that with all diligence they may be faithful heralds of Your beloved Son. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Almighty God, Your Son, our Lord Jesus, once came with humility but will come again with great might at His appointed time. Grant that all members of Christ's

- Church may live repentant lives of holiness and godliness as they wait for and hasten Your day when He will come again. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- E Dearest Lord, as we look upon this sinful world, our heart breaks at the incredible amount of pain and suffering that effects so many people. We ask for an end to war, no matter where it is occurring today, so peace can reign in the nations of this world. For the starving people of Somalia, we pray for an end of persecution so food aid can flow to save lives. In Egypt, Libya, and Syria, ease the burdens being leveled upon those being persecuted solely because they have faith in Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P Give comfort, O Lord, to those suffering with any bodily affliction and pain (*especially _____*). Give them strength and confidence that they may know You are near in their time of need, protect them from the assaults of the evil one, and comfort and deliver them according to Your will, especially with the promise of their bodily resurrection and everlasting salvation to come on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- E Lord Jesus Christ, You once came into the world as a lowly infant, and You promise that You will come again in power and great glory. As we await Your final coming, we thank You for continuing to come to us in Your Holy Supper. Feed all who come to Your table today with Your forgiveness, life, and salvation that we may be strengthened and sustained as we anticipate Your second advent. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- 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.

Proper Preface

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 from 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:

Sanctus

"The God of Abraham Praise," Lutheran Worship #450, stanzas 8-9

**The God who reigns on high The great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King!
Who was, and is the same And evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Father, great I AM! We worship Thee!"**

**The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heavn'ly lays:
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!**

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725-99, alt.

Tune: YIGDAL, Hebrew.

Text and Tune: Public domain

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

P: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You send Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ, the kingdom of heaven has drawn near. With thankful hearts we pray then:

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night 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 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."

Matthew 26: 26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

P: In His body and blood, given us to eat and drink in this most holy Supper, we here receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in His glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: 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.

Sharing of the Peace

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

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

C: And also with you.

Agnus Dei

"The Lamb, The Lamb," Lutheran Service Book, #547, stanzas 1, 4, 5

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes, God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**He sighs, He dies, He take my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He give me His own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

**He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song, prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong.
Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

Text: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Music: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953

Text and tune: (c) 1987 Morningstar Music Publishers

Setting (c) 1997 Morningstar Music Publishers

↓ Communion Distribution

“

The Lord's Supper will be distributed from the floor of the sanctuary this morning.

↑ Post-Communion Collect

E: Let us pray. Great and merciful God, the days pass quickly and we grow weak and weary amid the rapid pace of change. Give us patience to wait upon You. Give us wisdom to judge with the discernment of Your Spirit. Give us an awareness of Your constant presence. And give us Your abiding peace to calm us on our way. These we ask with confidence that You will give us all that we need to be prepared for our Lord Jesus when He comes; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

Closing Hymn

"Prepare the Royal Highway," Lutheran Worship hymnal #27

Prepare the royal highway; The king of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the king of glory Foretold in sacred story:
Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's name!

God's peopel, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's name!

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him! All voice, join in singing:
Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's name!

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:
Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's name!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, atl.

Tune: Swedish folk tune, 17th Century.

Musical Benediction

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel," arr. Paul Manz

Dismissal

Postlude

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers," arr. Paul Manz

Copyright Notice: Scripture quotations and readings are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright Notice: Liturgy (or appropriate portion thereof) from Lutheran Service Book (c) 2006 Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis. Used by permission. License #00010073.

Copyright Notice: Portions of our liturgy today are used by permission from Creative Worship (c) 2010 Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis.