



“Comfort my people!”

December 10th, 2017

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



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Second Sunday in Advent – December 10th, 2017

Order of Service – Service of the Word (p. 38)

Opening Hymn

#21: Hosanna to the Coming Lord

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

Refrain



The King of glo - ry comes; the na - tion re - joic - es.



O - pen the gates be - fore him; lift up your voic - es.



- 1 Who is the King of glo - ry? How shall we call him?
- 2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
- 3 He gave his life for us, the lamb of sal - va - tion;
- 4 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

Refrain



He is Im - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
He goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
He took up - on him - self the sin of the na - tions.
And he will share with us his heav - en - ly king - dom.

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Tune: PROMISED ONE (12 12 with Refrain) Israeli melody, 20th century.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Word

Psalm 85

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

- M: ¹LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C: ²**You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.**
- M: ³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- C: ⁴**Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!**
- M: ⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- C: ⁶**Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**
- M: ⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- C: ⁸**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**
- M: ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- C: ¹⁰**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- M: ¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C: ¹²**Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**
- M: ¹³Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.
- 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.**

Epistle Lesson – 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.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

- P: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.
- C: **We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**
- P: We hear his call to repent.
- C: **We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**
- P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Gospel Lesson – Mark 1:1-8

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, ³the 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.”



Hymn of the Day

#16: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Sermon:

“Comfort my people!”

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries: “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. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶A 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. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go 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!” ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Thanksgiving

Offering

If you are a guest visiting us this morning, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. We understand that you may want to know more about our ministry before supporting it with your gifts. If, however, you desire to give, you are welcome to do so.

During the gathering of the offering, please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Prayer of the Church

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our

bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Collect

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

#11: Comfort, Comfort All My People



Announcements

Church Council Meeting Today - 11:20 AM

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Bible class will continue "A Man Named Martin" on January 7.

Advent Evening Services December 13 & 20 -6:30 PM

We gather to prepare ourselves for our coming Savior as we hear some of the many promises of God to send his Son.

Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant to help beautify the chancel area during our Christmas services, please bring your plant to church by December 17. You may speak with Faye Davis or Joy Peterson for more information.

Ushers Needed

We are in need of additional volunteers to serve as ushers during our 10:15 AM service. Please speak with Jim Engelson for more information.

Sunday School Christmas Service

Our Sunday School Christmas Service is scheduled for 9:30 am on December 24. (Please note that the time printed on the December calendar is incorrect.)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6:30 PM

Festive Christmas Day Worship 9:00 AM

NLHS – Journey to Bethlehem

Friday, December 15 4:30-8:30 PM

Northland Lutheran High School welcomes you to join us this year for Journey to Bethlehem! It is a living, interactive nativity scene walk-through that all ages can enjoy for free. Chili and Christmas treats will be served after your walk-through.

Sign up as soon as you can because spots fill quickly! You can RSVP at this link <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044aa5a922a7fb6-journey2> or scan the code below:

