

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship Booklet
December 6th, 2020 A.D.**



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

PR=Pastor Ryan
L=Lector
C=Congregation

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the second candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **C: Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

ELW #240, verses 1 & 2 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

TIF IN VELDELE

PRELUDE *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* setting by Paul Manz

OPENING HYMN **ELW #256** *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*
FREU DICH SEHR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever. **C: Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence for self-reflection and examination.

Loving and forgiving God,
C: we confess that we are held captive by sin.

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

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

R: *Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)*

L: You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**C: You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins. R**

L: I 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.

**C: Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land. R**

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**C: Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

L: The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**C: Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway. R**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Saint Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The holy gospel according to St. Mark the thirteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

L: God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great. C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

TAKING FAITH HOME

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

PR: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN ELW # 246 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

MERTON

POSTLUDE *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

setting of a hymn by Martin Luther (ELW #263), by Dieterich Buxtehude

WORSHIP LEADERS

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Fr. Ryan K. Viands

Director of Music and Organist: Mr. David Rankin

Lector: Mrs. Debbie Streicher

Cantor: Mrs. Tamela Rankin

Digital Worship Preparation: Mrs. Debbie Streicher and Ms. Debbie Szymanski



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

