

*Second Sunday in Advent*  
*December 10, 2023*  
*7:30 am*



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**PRESERVICE MUSIC** “The Advent of Our King” (arr. Willan/Brandon) &  
“Prepare the Royal Highway” (arr. Farlee)

**A Reminder: Please be respectful to our brothers and sisters who use the time prior to worship for quiet meditation on God's Word. - Thank you**

### **343 PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY**

1 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: **Refrain**

**Refrain** Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

2 God's people, 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! **Refrain**

3 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 nations, now adore Him! **Refrain**

4 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: **Refrain**

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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### **MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. *John 1:14*

### **INVOCATION**

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

**G** Amen.

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**G** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**G** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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.

**G** Amen.

## INTROIT

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;

it took deep root and filled the land.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**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.**

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**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.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 40:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>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!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>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

*2 Peter 3:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>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! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup>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.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Mark 1:1–8*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### 347 COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

- 1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over."
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many\_a day,  
Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That His Word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

**SERMON** “Resisting Comfort” Isaiah 40:1-11

**NICENE CREED** (Creed can be found in the back of the hymnal and on the screens)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*After each petition, please respond with the following:*

**P** Let us pray to the Lord

**C** Lord have mercy.

*At the end of the prayer:*

**C** Amen.

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

## PREFACE

LSB 160

**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.

**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

LSB 161

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## LORD'S PRAYER

### PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

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

**C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

### + DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

*For guests and visitors, we invite you to please read our statement regarding the Lord's Supper on the inside cover of your bulletin.*

### 619 THY BODY, GIVEN FOR ME, O SAVIOR

1 Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior,  
Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,  
These are my life and strength forever,  
By them my hungry soul is fed. **Refrain**

**Refrain** Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!

2 With Thee, Lord, I am now united;  
I live in Thee and Thou in me.  
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted  
It finds its only joy in Thee. **Refrain**

3 Who can condemn me now? For surely  
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.  
No hell I fear, and thus securely  
With Jesus I to heaven rise. **Refrain**

4 Though death may threaten with disaster,  
It cannot rob me of my cheer;  
For He who is of death the master  
With aid and comfort e'er is near. **Refrain**

5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling,  
O blessèd, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, Thy praises telling,  
Shall live in joy eternally. **Refrain**

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

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## HYMN OF THE MONTH - 345 HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING

*Stanza two develops the themes of day and night, light and darkness, and makes it clear that the “earth-bound soul” is enabled to rise only because of Jesus. The third stanza refers more specifically to the message of John the Baptist that the one coming after him is the Lamb of God, who offers repentant sinners pardon and forgiveness (John 1:29).*

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv’n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy  
And with words of love draw near.
- △ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

LSB 166

**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.

**G** Amen.

## 349 HARK THE GLAD SOUND

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

- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51

Text: Public domain

## **DISMISSAL**

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE** “Hark the Glad Sound” (arr. Lang) & “Lift Up Your Heads” (arr. Bender)

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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