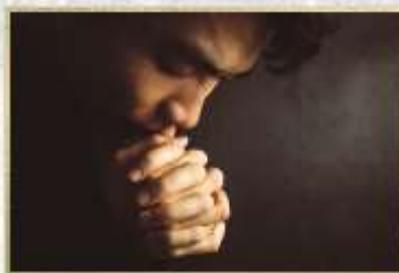


# PREPARE YE

A SERIES OF SPECIAL  
SERVICES FOR *Advent*



WEEK 1: *Ponder*



WEEK 2: *Pray*



WEEK 3: *Praise*



WEEK 4: *Proclaim*

**FIRST WEDNESDAY IN ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER 2, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**

**Order of Worship**

**Invocation and Call to Worship**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be you all.

**C. Amen**

P. Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a high-way for our God!

**C. God promises to be with us and keep us wherever we go.**

P. He will not leave us until He has done what He promised.

**C. Surely the Lord is in this place!**

P. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

**C. For God sent John the Baptist...**

P. To turn the hearts of parents to their children.

**C. To make ready a people prepared!**

# Prepare the Royal Highway

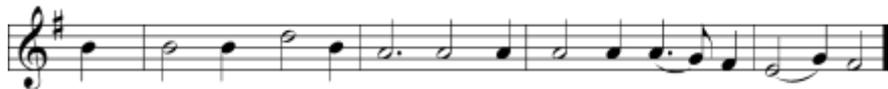
LSB #343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

## **Confession and Absolution**

P. Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry...

**C. Too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**

P. Forgive what our lips tremble to name.

**C. What our hearts can no bear.**

P. And what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

**C. As parents, we have not fully loved our children.**

P. As children, we have not fully loved our parents.

**C. Set us free from a past that we cannot change.**

P. Open to us a future where we can be changed.

**C. And grant us to grow in grace more and more in the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

P. Surely the Lord is in this place as the God of love and kindness who forgives you, frees you, heals you, strengthens you and raises you up to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. He also sends His Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of parents to their children.

**C. To make ready a people prepared!**

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5

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."

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

I Thessalonians 5: 1-6

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup> For you are all children<sup>[b]</sup> of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup> So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

<sup>33</sup> Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup> Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup> lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

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

LSB #344



1 On    Jor - dan's bank    the Bap - tist's cry    An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed    be    ev - 'ry life    from sin;    Make straight    the  
3 We    hail    Thee    as    our Sav - ior, Lord,    Our    ref - uge  
4 Lay    on    the sick    Thy heal - ing hand    And make    the  
△ 5 All    praise,    e - ter - nal Son,    to Thee    Whose ad - vent



that    the    Lord    is    nigh;    A - wake    and    hear - ken,  
way    for    God    with - in,    And    let    us    all    our  
and    our    great    re - ward;    With - out    Thy    grace    we  
fall - en    strong    to stand;    Show    us    the    glo - ry  
sets    Thy    peo - ple free,    Whom with    the    Fa - ther



for    he brings    Glad tid - ings of    the King    of kings!  
hearts pre - pare    For Christ to come    and en - ter there.  
waste a - way    Like flow'rs that with - er    and de - cay.  
of Thy face    Till beau - ty springs    in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore    And Ho - ly Spir - it    ev - er - more.

**Sermon**

Pastor Carey P. Elam

*“Watch, Be Prepared”*  
Mark 13:33-37

**Offering**

**Prayers**

**Benediction**

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB #338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.