



Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
2725 Concord Drive
Florissant, MO 63033

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

Welcome! If you are a guest today, we hope you leave as a friend. May this worship service surround you with the love of God through Christ and fills you with the Holy Spirit.

Invitation to Communion: We welcome all to commune at LCLC. It is the table of Jesus Christ - not our table, nor this congregation's table, nor our denomination's table. By his invitation there is a place for everyone. We believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine that forgives sin, nourishes faith, and calls us to be witnesses of the gospel.

Notes about our worship service: You can also follow along with the service on the screen in the front. Guidance is printed in *italics* throughout. "**P**" indicates the speaking part of the presiding minister; "**L**" indicates a speaking part of a lay leader; "**C**" and parts in boldface indicate speaking parts of the whole congregation. We use a variety of resources to select music and other parts of the service. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

PRELUDE

"Thou Didst They Throne" arr. Darrell Archer
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" arr. Darrell Archer

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

Confession and Words of Assurance

P: The Lord has done great things for us.

C: and we are glad indeed!

P: People of God, as we are called to testify to the Light let us also turn in repentance, confessing our sin.

Silence for reflection

P: God of all,

C: You promise to work for those who wait, who gladly do right.

Still, we have failed to work for the justice you love

but we have loved wrongdoing;

we have ignored the cries of those who long for comfort

but we have sought to sow fear and discord;

we have not shared the good news with the oppressed,

the brokenhearted, the captive, the mourning,

but we have chosen to keep the story to ourselves.

Forgive us; help us to turn again to you.

Restore us, O God of hosts.

Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

L: Beloved, we receive glad tidings from our God: the fig tree puts forth leaves, the voice cries in the wilderness: someone greater is coming to disrupt our world with love. This is our story to share, written in our hearts by the Spirit: we are forgiven + through Jesus the Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: AMEN

GATHERING HYMN

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

ELW#254

GREETING

P: Beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: Today we light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

C: A voice cries out.

L: This is the beginning.

C: The grass withers. The flower fades. The word of our God stands forever.

L: This is the beginning.

C: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight paths for our God!

L: This is the beginning.

C: And so we light this candle to shine forth with peace, for tidings of the beginning bring comfort to all people.

L: This is the beginning.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. We long for comfort even as we hear of new beginnings, O Great Shepherd. Stir up your strength and come help us, for we know we are called to prepare a way in the wilderness, a way for your revelation. Keep us awake to offer tidings of peace, for this is the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM Amazing Savior

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "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. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

L: ¹You have been gracious to your^l land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C: ²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out^l all their sins.

L: ⁸I 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: ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell^l in our land.

L: ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C: ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

L: ¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

C: ¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING - *Please stand, as you are able, to welcome the gospel.*

P: The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter (verses 1-8)

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to

stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Matt

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Bank” ELW #249

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We belong to the story of God that resonates through time and space.

**We share this story, bringing good news of great joy for all people:
created by God who has been light and love from the beginning
and will be light and love beyond the end.**

**We echo the words of prophets, reminding all of God’s actions down through the ages:
building a house not of stone but of people,
shepherded by the One who brings comfort and peace.**

**We witness to the divine:
pointing to a child born of Mary, Jesus,
who disrupts the world through love,
builds community by turning the world up-side-down,
and challenges the power of this world.**

**We proclaim news of the Prince of Peace:
heralding good news of a Savior,
who dies for us to be raised to new life
so we need not fear news of the end.**

**We bring tidings to all people:
proclaiming a Spirit who moves through this world,
helping us hold fast to what is good,
teaching us to rejoice always,
and binding us together, for...**

We belong to the story of God that resonates through time and space.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lifting up stories of ending and beginning, joy and disruption, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's coming in Jesus.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. As we look toward new beginnings, teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal (*especially*). Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season (*especially*). Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of all stories, receive these and all our prayers, and restore us with your great and everlasting love.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share God's peace in whatever way you and/or neighbors are comfortable.

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

OFFERING AND PRAYER

P: God of beginnings, we prepare for your presence, making a way in the wilderness of our lives.

Accept these gifts we bring, that we may be instruments of your peace.

C: Amen

COMMUNION LITURGY

P: We are the body of Christ.

C: His Spirit is with us.

P: Let us lift up our hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, and to offer a new song of praise, singing: "Glory to you in the highest heaven and on earth peace among all you favor." You are the God who made the heavens in the beginning, the creator of all things whose life-giving presence now shines on all of creation. Your grace appears bringing salvation to all; your child Jesus has come to us, and the heavenly host sings with joy. Through Jesus, born in exile and delivered over to death, new life arises out of this ending. Through the resurrection, you disrupt oppression to bring the promise of life and hope. Though laid this night in a manger, Jesus will be seated on the throne of endless peace to rule with justice and joy, from this time onward and forevermore.

Therefore, with the woman who gave you birth, with the man who took you on his shoulders, with the shepherds who found you in a feed trough, with the magi who knew of you from the silent stars, and with the aged prophets who saw in you the redemption of the world:

C: We share the good news of great joy.

P: With the angels and archangels who envelop us, With all the saints before us and beside us, with parent and siblings, east and west, north and south,

C: We share the good news of great joy.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In bread and wine, we share the good news of Christ's presence with us. Come to the table.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION Time is given for the sharing of bread and wine. Additional verbal directions will be given.

Lamb of God (Advent)

(to the tune CRADLE SONG)

tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, arr. J. Seagle

Voice

O Christ thou Lamb of God you
take a - way the sin of the world. Have
mer - cy on us. O us. O Christ thou Lamb of
God you take a - way the sin of the
world. Grant us thy peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Hark the Glad Sound”

ELW#239

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

PRAYER

L: You have fed us at your table

C: You have shown us through this meal what it means to be God with us.

L: Now send us forth from this table

C: That we may share tidings of (hope, peace, joy, love)

L: We pray this in the name of the one whose day draws near,

C: Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen

*(**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Please see announcements at the end of this bulletin.)

BENEDICTION

L: When we ask, "how long, O Lord?"

C: God reminds us, "I AM faithful."

L: When we cry out, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

C: God proclaims, "This is the beginning."

L: When we point to the one who is greater than ourselves,

C: God fills us with rejoicing.

L: When we listen to the voice that calls us blessed,

C: God shows that love changes everything.

L: May our God + who weaves us into the story of faith bless and keep us this Advent/Christmas season and forever more.

C: AMEN

SENDING HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW#264

DISMISSAL

L: Go to share tidings of peace for all people.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

"There's a Song in the Air" arr. Darrell Archer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Great Rivers Collaborative Advent Service Event** Join us in worship during a combined Advent Service scheduled for December 13th at 6:00 pm. The worship service will be held at Lutheran Church of the Living Christ with a light meal starting at 5:00 pm. Congregational members from each church will participate in the service. **Please see the sign-up sheet** in the narthex to indicate if you can attend and bring either a chili or a dessert. Be sure to attend the dinner even if you are not able to bring food. If you have any questions or need a ride to the dinner and service, contact Laurie Brown or Randy Henning.
- 2. DECEMBER LUNCH BUNCH TO MEET AT CUGINO'S** The Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, December 14 at 11:30 at Cugino's, 1595 N. Hwy. 67, 63031. For reservations contact Judy Holmes at 314-355-1125 or mickey.holmes@att.net. All are welcome!
- 3. "Girls Scouts & Living Christ** quilt making for Lutheran World Relief has been canceled for December 16th and has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Any questions, please speak with Kathy Endorf."
- 4. DIRECTORY UPDATE:** We are working on updating our records for people affiliated with LCLC. Please take a moment to review your contact information we currently have on file. Copies for review are in the fellowship area and on the table by the pastor's office.
- 5. MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT** – Kathy Endorf, along with her crew of seamstresses, worked with Girl Scout Troop 994 as they earned their sewing badges. Quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief who will distribute them to those in need in disaster zones throughout the world. Another opportunity to help the Girl Scouts will come in January.
- 6. ADVENT Worship 20 @ 2:00 pm & Dec. 13 dinner 5:00pm service 6:00 pm.**
- 7. FIFTY PLUS NEWS** Christmas Luncheon at 11:00 am December 20, 2023 Enjoy a Christmas lunch catered by Tornatore's in the LCLC church basement. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board along

with the menu. Bring a small, wrapped gift if you would like to participate in the exchange game! The cost is \$10 for members and \$18 for guests. Please pay in advance to Glenn Mueller, Joyce Meyer or Joyce Wolfe.

8. If you are feeling sick and/ or have a cold, please wear a mask or please stay at home. Thanks!

December 10, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepffel
Lector: Laurie Brown
Zoom & Slides: Gary & Laurie Brown
Musician:
Ushers: Cathie Lehr & Marilyn Wiley
Greeter: Gloria Broderick
Altar Guild: Maureen Buchek & Marjorie Becker

December 13, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Dave Endorf
Zoom & Slides: Rod Wallace
Musician:
Ushers: Jann & Glenn Mueller
Greeter: Levaughn & Sheila Smart
Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr & Joyce Meyer

December 17, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt
Assisting Minister: Randy Henning
Lector: Angela Bennett
Zoom: Erle Craig
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Ann Schultz & Glenn Albers
Greeter: Jim Stoechner
Altar Guild: Karen Haynes & Sheila Smart

Joyful Giving Note - Lutheran Church of the Living Christ needs your help in ensuring its future ministry. Please include the church in your will and/or other estate plans. You may want to at least tithe (give 10%) of your estate to the Lord. Remember to include the church's name and address along with the amount of your bequest. Should you wish, the pastor will provide you with the name of a caring and capable professional who can assist you.