

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 6, 2020

10:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—"BREATH OF HEAVEN"



John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

PRELUDE *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* tune *Picardy* arr. Nancy Haskell
prerecorded by Sarah Climis, handbell solo; Nathan Sande, cello; Karen Sande, piano

WELCOME

Blessed be the Holy Trinity + one God,
the God who comes to set us free;
the Breath of Heaven who comes as hope among us;
the Dawn from on high leading us into peace and joy.
Amen.

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
 word, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have
 Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.
 mer - cy. A - men.

God does have mercy upon us.
 Breathe deeply the forgiveness we have been given in the name of + Christ.
Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Holy One,
 You come with might and yet with the gentleness of a shepherd and the vulnerability of a
 babe. Help us to hear your voice in the midst of our wilderness, and to trust your ways of
 peace that lead us home. Through the One whose Word stands forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING *Isaiah 40:1-11*

read by Ann Beck

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY #264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*



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 may 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 will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
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!

SECOND READING *2 Peter 3:8-15a*

read by Jen Fuchs

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Breath of Heaven*

words and music by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant
prerecorded by Dana Varland, soloist; Bryan Gatten, guitar

*Solo: I am waiting in a silent prayer; I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now.*

Refrain

Breath of Heav-en, hold me to - geth-er, be for-ev - er near me, Breath of
Heav-en. Breath of Heav-en, light - en my dark-ness, pour o - ver me your
ho - li-ness, for you are ho - ly, Breath of Heav-en.

GOSPEL *Mark 1:1-8*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark
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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

*enter into sermon with a breath prayer:
Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew.*

HYMN #256 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Boundless God, remind us:

**I AM Created by an ever-present, loving God,
Deeply rooted in Christ Jesus
Equipped to be resilient amidst change,
Grounded in community,
Free to struggle, grow and expand,
Compelled to reach out in response,
Renewed in hope each day.**

God, speak these words to us today, plant them within us, that we may find our identity in you. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each prayer petition is followed by silence, then we respond after the words, we pray:



In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you
come to us; bring us your light.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *People, Look East*

French carol, arr. Jason Krug
prerecorded by handbell quartet: Roberta Maughan, Suzanne Rauvola, Karen Sande, Sarah Climis

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.
Amen.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

I will bring her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. Hosea 2:14

As we travel through this wilderness of time
even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.

We break off a piece of bread, touching, tasting and seeing,
remembering our God- Breath of Heaven, Body of Earth. As we eat
this bread, we remember all the ways God draws near, sustaining us until
the day we gather again around this table in this place. We live in hope.
Amen.

HYMN #257 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



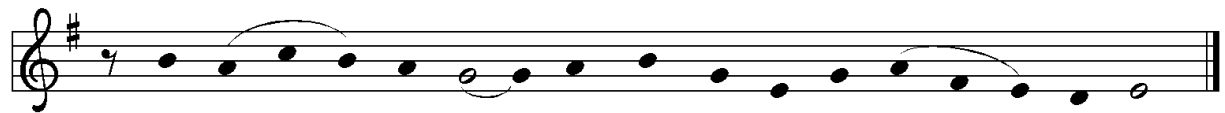
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Sa - tan's



Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



in cloud, and maj - es - ty and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trusting that our God draws near, we pray:

**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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #266 *All Earth Is Hopeful*



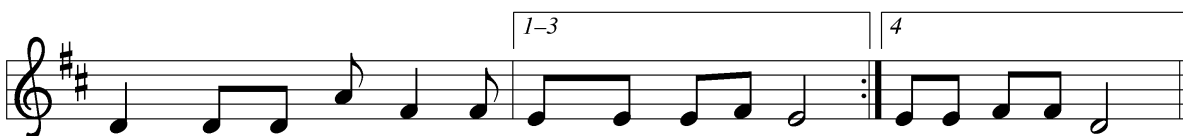
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come*

tune *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* arr. Paul Manz
Karen Sande, organ

MINISTERS All People of First Lutheran Church
PASTOR The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
PASTORAL INTERN Logan McLean Strike
PROGRAM STAFF Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
MUSICIANS Mary Dontje, Suzanne Rauvola, Andy Frey, Doug Frey, John Sippola, singers;
Sarah Climis, handbell solo, Nathan Sande, cello, Karen Sande, piano;
Dana Varland, soloist; Bryan Gatten, guitar; Roberta Maughan, Suzanne Rauvola,
Karen Sande, Sarah Climis, handbell quartet
VIDEOGRAPHER Shania Krause, Sam Weston
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Stacie Curnow

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First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.
We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

(218) 728-3668 | fcduluth.org | fcduluth@fcduluth.org



Order Poinsettias for Advent & Christmas

Help beautify the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please fill out this form and attach a check (made out to FLC) for \$13 per plant.

Return to church office by Monday Dec. 14th.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Plants _____ at \$13 each = \$ _____

Given in memory of / in honor of (circle one):
