



**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School  
Grafton, WI  
December 10, 2023**

## 2nd Sunday in Advent

**Today's Focus:** Prepare yourself for Christ's coming! Listen to his Word as he calls you, for the Lord comes with your reward in hand.

**Welcome!**

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### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding:	Jonathan Fischer
Organist:	Jon Hahm
Flute:	Greta Liebenow

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*The 10:30 service is livestreamed for our members at home.*



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## Advent Gathering Song

The opening hymns and songs of Christian worship mean to "gather" individual Christians into a worshiping assembly.

*The cantor will sing the refrain once.*

*The congregation will then join and continuously sing:*

Come,      come      Em - man - u - el.

Come,      Em - man - u - el.

*During the singing of the refrain the cantor sings:*

Oh give comfort, my people, and...  
Oh prepare the way, and...  
Like a shepherd God feeds us, so...  
For the day of the Lord will...  
Oh make ready his way, and...  
He will baptize in Spirit and....

### Greeting

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,  
and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

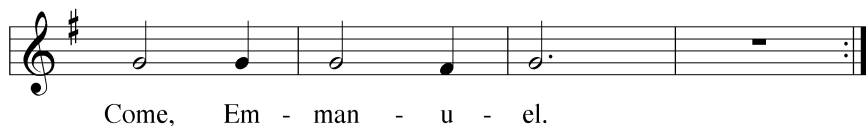
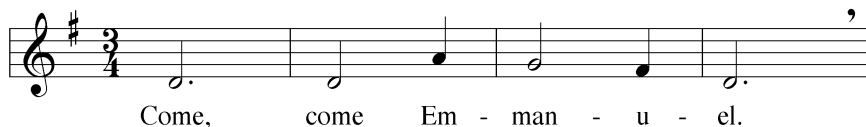
**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,  
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

*All sing the refrain while the cantor sings the verses*



Lord have mercy upon us and come  
Christ, have mercy upon us and come  
Lord, have mercy upon us and come

## Holy Baptism

*At the 10:30 service Wyatt Robert Wetzel will be welcomed as a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism.*

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 40:1–11*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling:  
"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out.”  
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever.”

<sup>9</sup>You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup>He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

**We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

We hear his call to repent.

**We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Two Advent candles are lit.*

## Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8–14

<sup>8</sup>But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

<sup>11</sup>Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup>as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup>But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4,6

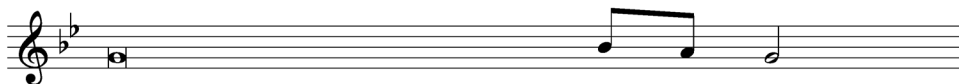


### Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Tone



Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.



And all people will see God's sal - va - tion.

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Stand

## Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup>as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”—

<sup>3</sup>“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’ ”

<sup>4</sup>And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>6</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And this was his message: “After me comes the one more



powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **316 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry**

CW 316

### **Sermon**

*Space is included for you to take notes during the sermon.*

*Stand*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## **Offering**

*Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today.*

*Please sign the friendship register and pass it down the pew.*

## 312 Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 312

*Stand*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 302 Prepare the Royal Highway

CW 302

### Acknowledgments

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