

Second Sunday in Advent  
December 6, 2020

Faith Lutheran Church  
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Online

Georgetown, TX 78628  
flcms.org

*(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)*

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION:**

*Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**People: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:** *(based on First Reading)*

*Pastor: All people are like grass*

**People: And all their glory is like the flowers of the field.**

*Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,*

**People: But the Word of our God will stand forever.**

*Pastor: O almighty God,*

**People: we confess that we have fallen far short of Your glory. Our thoughts and words and deeds are soiled with sin and we deserve eternal punishment. Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy.**

*Pastor: God's Word comforts us with God's forgiveness. "Comfort, comfort My people," says our God.*

**People: Our hard service has been completed by our Savior Jesus Christ; He has paid for our sin.**

*Pastor: Because of Jesus, we receive from the Lord's hand not punishment, but forgiveness –*

**People: A double portion of God's love: overflowing mercy, grace abounding.**

*Pastor: In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is my privilege today to announce to you that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**People: Amen. We hear God's good tidings! Our Lord comes to us in power and in love. He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers us in His arms and carries us close to His heart. Thanks be to God, forever and ever. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:** “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” (Lutheran Service Book, #347)

“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.”

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.

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.

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: Public domain*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

*Pastor: Let us pray.*

*Stir up our hearts, O Lord. Wake us from our slumber.*

**People: Come, O Lord, with power and glory.**

*Pastor: May we faithfully make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, so that we are alert and watchful.*

**People: Come, O Lord, with power and glory.**

*Pastor: The time is short until Christ comes again. At His second coming may we worship Him in purity and truth.*

**People: Come, O Lord, with power and glory.**

**For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 40:1–11***

Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.

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.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

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.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

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.  
The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
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!”  
Behold, the Lord God comes with might,  
and His arm rules for Him;  
behold, His reward is with Him,  
and His recompense before Him.  
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.

*Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING:** 2 Peter 3:8–14

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. 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. 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.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 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! But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

*Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Lector: Please rise, as you are able.*

*Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter:*

**People: Glory to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL READING:** *Mark 1:1–8*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send My messenger before your face,  
who will prepare Your way,  
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make His paths straight,’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

**People: Praise to You, O Christ!**

*Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Nicene Creed*

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God,

begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at [www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons](http://www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons).

### **HYMN:** "Arise, O Christian People" (LSB, #354)

Arise, O Christian people!  
Prepare yourselves today;  
Prepare to greet the Savior,  
Who takes your sins away.  
To us by grace alone  
The truth and light were given;  
The promised Lord from heaven  
To all the world is shown.  
Prepare the way before Him;  
Prepare for Him the best.  
Cast out what would offend Him,  
This great, this heav'nly guest.  
Make straight, make plain the way:  
The lowly valleys raising,  
The heights of pride abasing,

His path all even lay.  
The humble heart and lowly  
God raises up on high;  
Beneath His feet in terror  
The haughty soul shall lie.  
The heart sincere and right,  
That heeds God's invitation  
And makes true preparation—  
It is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive You  
This blessed Adventtide.  
From stall and manger low  
Come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing Your praises gladly  
And forth Your glory show.

*Text: Public domain*

**SERMON:** "Getting Ready, Staying Ready" (*Mark 1:1-8*)

**OFFERTORY:**

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at [www.flcms.org/index.php/give](http://www.flcms.org/index.php/give).

**BELL CHOIR OFFERTORY:** "Llangloffan" and "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"  
arranged by Anna Laura Page

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:*

**Following each petition:**

*Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,*

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**Following the final petition:**

*Pastor: For these and all other concerns we have; we pray as You have taught us to pray:*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**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.**

**BENEDICTION:** *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

*Pastor: 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.*

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Hark the Glad Sound" (LSB, #349)

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

He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring



With Thy beloved name.

*Text: Public domain*

**DISMISSAL:**

Please be seated  
and kindly wait for an usher to dismiss your row.

+ † +

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**In Christian Service:**

All disciples of the Lord Jesus  
*with*

Proclaimer – Rev. Walt Pohland

Liturgist – Rev. Bill Crowe

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

Organist:

Phyllis Draheim

Faith Bell Choir:

Director – Joyce Best

Lay Readers:

Online Reader – Janine Alford

Children's Chapel:

DCE Jonathan Loesch, DCE Austin Angerman