



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK

Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

(907) 488-6720 www.lordoflifeak.com

Welcome to Worship! Words in **bold** are said together.

Welcome – We will be sharing in Holy Communion online today. You are invited to gather what is available in your home – as Christ did at the celebration of Passover – bread in some form, and fruit juice or wine. We will eat and drink together after the Eucharist prayer.

Confession and Absolution

L: Blessed be God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, whose coming is soon, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **C: Amen.**

L: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

L: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Sharing Christ's Peace

Greeting

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

Kyrie (sung from setting 4)

Advent Hymn – Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah #240 (v. 2)

Light two candles to watch for Messiah; let the light soften darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Advent Candle Lighting

Gathering Hymn – Prepare the Royal Highway #264

1. Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley, a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story;
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

2. God's people, see him coming; your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
3. Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!
4. His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding;
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹*Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.*

²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah

⁸*Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.*

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹²The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸But do 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; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 1:1-8

The 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.**

Hymn of the Day – Each Winter as the Year Grows Older #252

1. Each winter as the year grows older, we each grow older, too.
The chill sets in a little colder; the verities we knew seem shaken and untrue.
2. When race and class cry out for treason, when sirens call for war,
they over shout the voice of reason and scream till we ignore
all we held dear before.
3. Yet I believe beyond believing that life can spring from death,
that growth can flower from our grieving, that we can catch our breath
and turn transfixed by faith.
4. So even as the sun is turning to journey to the north,
the living flame, in secret burning, can kindle on the earth
and bring God's love to birth.
5. O Child of ecstasy and sorrows, O Prince of peace and pain,
brighten today's world by tomorrow's, renew our lives again;
Lord Jesus, come and reign!

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers of God's People

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," please respond: **hear our prayer.**

Offering

- ◇ Mail: Lord of Life Lutheran, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705
- ◇ Online: "giving" tab at www.lordoflifeak.com/giving or the QR Code →
- ◇ Phone app: download "Give Plus Church" search by zip 99705, choose Lord of Life, and follow the easy instructions



Offering Hymn – O Little Town of Bethlehem #279 (v. 1)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

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.

Communion

L: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

* Eat and drink together at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

We pray together with confidence the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to 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.

Announcements

- Wednesday Advent Worship at 7pm on Zoom! click the link, or call in at 253-215-8782 and type in the Meeting ID: 954 4649 8888 and Passcode: 177669, or click this link: <https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/95446498888?pwd=QmQ2VDNhSEIzVUFZY1ZzWDFITStpZz09>
- The Rees family has again generously donated a steer to offset the church's fuel bill. Reserve a 20 lb. share of grade A beef for \$200 by emailing office@lordoflifeak.com
- We are preparing our Christmas Eve Worship. Please send pictures of your creche (manger scene!), and 30-second candle videos for "Silent Night" to the church office by December 17!
- 2 Firewood requests from Love INC neighbors in need. We prefer to have 2 teams to make these deliveries. If you have a truck and some time this week, please contact Pastor Amanda: 322-2065!

Blessing and Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Special Thanks to...

Pianist, Carol Hughes
(and last week, thank you Margi Ungrodt for playing!)

Reader, Cheryl Park

Power point, Curt Renner

Video, Jason Kempthorne

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