

Review of the Prayers of the People
Prayers of the People

Let us pray ...

(petition), Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

(Final prayer) Into your hands, we commend for all whom we pray, trusting in you, through our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Offering

Ushers collect the offering while special music is played.

*Offering Prayer

The congregation is invited to stand and sing as the ushers bring the offering to the front:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit.

***Lord's Prayer**

*Closing Hymn

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry (Green #36)

*Benediction/Dismissal

As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)

(Our Saviour's, said): Amen.

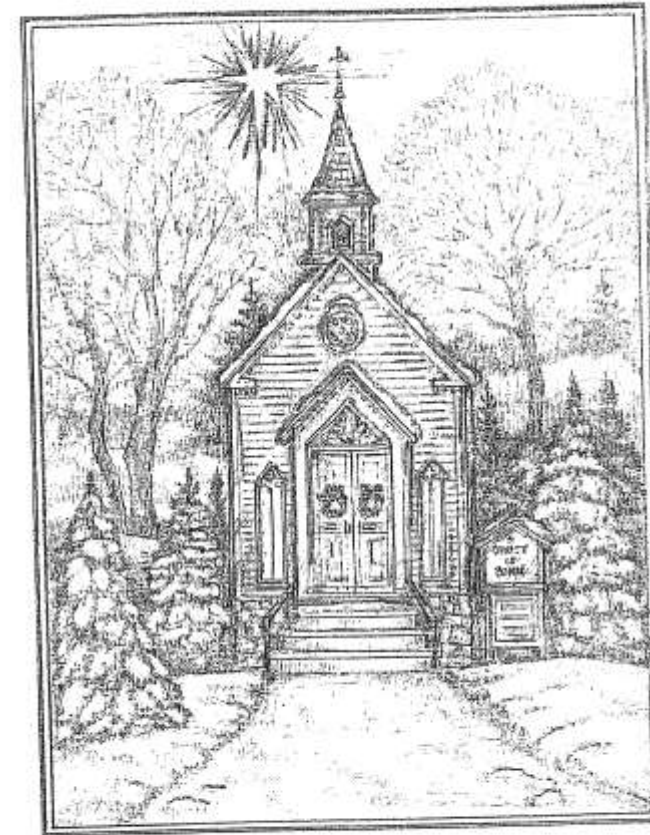
(Fahlun, sung): Amen. Amen. Amen.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Bells/Postlude

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECEMBER 10, 2023

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*Please stand (Page 6)

Prelude/Bells

Welcome/Announcements

*Confession/Absolution

In this season of waiting and watching for the return of Christ, we are gathered together to worship in the name of the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God.” Let us come humbly before our Lord, asking for forgiveness and mercy for our sins, known and unknown. (Isaiah 40:3)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

God of grace,

We confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. We have neglected to serve our neighbors, near and far. We have relied too much on our own strength rather than relying on your power, grace, and comfort in our lives. Grant us forgiveness and restore us to a right relationship through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The God who desires his people to depend upon him, offers us comfort in the knowledge that all our sins are forgiven. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever. Live joyfully in the grace and mercy of our Lord. (Isaiah 40:8)

Amen.

*Opening Hymn

People Look East (Insert)

*Advent Candle Lighting

Preparation Candle

Make ready for the Lord, a people prepared. (Lk 1:8-17)

Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight. (Mk 1:1-5)

In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. (Mt 26:6-13)

But concerning that day and hour, no one knows...(Matt 24:36-51)

But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’

(Matt 25:1-13)

For it will be like a man going on a journey. . (Matt 25:14-32)

We light the first candle in the expectation of hope in the One, Jesus Christ..

We light the second Advent Candle in preparation of the One to Come

*Candle Hymn

We Light the Advent Candles (Insert, vs 1-3)

*Kyrie/Hymn of Praise

Green p.57-59

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together Stir up our hearts,

*Please stand (Page 2)

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷And 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People (Green #29)

***Apostle’s Creed**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

And born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day, he rose again.

He ascended into heaven

And sits at the right hand of the Father

He will come again 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.

*Please stand (Page 5)

O Lord,
to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son,
that by his coming we may be enabled
to serve you with pure minds;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace by greeting those around you.

1st Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries: "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. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A 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. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on 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!" ¹⁰Behold, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 85 (read responsively)

LORD, you were favorable to your land;

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people;

you covered all their sin.

³You withdrew all your wrath;

you turned from your hot anger.

*Please stand (Page 3)

⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!

⁵Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶Will you not revive us again,

that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

and grant us your salvation.

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

but let them not turn back to folly.

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him

and make his footsteps a way.

2nd Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting 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! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Preparation

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Green #30)

*Please stand (Page 4)