# Second Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020

PRELUDE An Advent Prelude | Charles Callahan

## Gathering

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

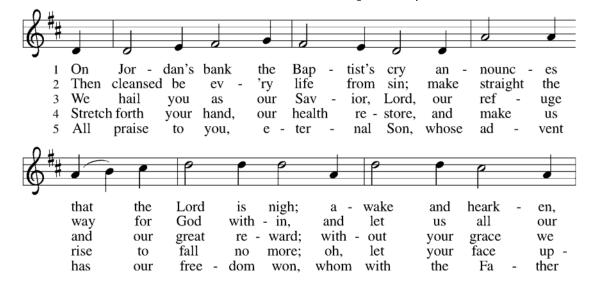
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



PROCESSIONAL HYMN #249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



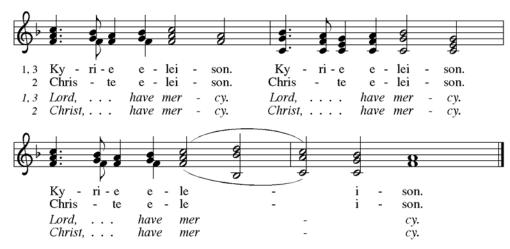
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

### **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.

### Kyrie



Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### Let us pray.

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.

## Word

## **FIRST READING** *Isaiah* 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak 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.

A voice cries out: "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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

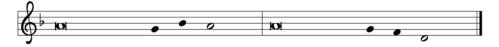
A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good 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!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He 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.

## PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

The cantor and congregation alternate in the singing of psalm verses, beginning with the cantor.



You have been gracious to your | land, O Lord;

you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

## You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people

and blotted out | all their sins.

I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

## Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,

that your glory may dwell | in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;

righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth, and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,

and our land will | yield its increase.

## Righteousness shall go be- | fore the Lord

and shall prepare for | God a pathway.

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

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. The 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. But 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.

Since 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, waiting 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? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15aand regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## **GOSPEL** Mark 1:1-8

## Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

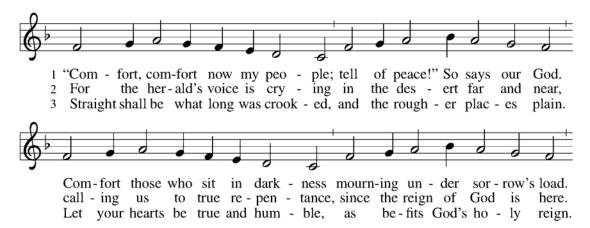
John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He 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. I 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

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

## HYMN OF THE DAY #256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People





Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

#### **APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION**

... Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** 

### LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken by all.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

## Sending

#### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### **RECESSIONAL HYMN #264** Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

## **POSTLUDE** Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying | arr. Emma Lou Diemer

We thank Casey Oelkers, flute, for offering our prelude today.

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