

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School



**PRE
PARE
THE
WAY
FOR
THE
LORD,**

**SMOOTHEN
THE PATH
FOR OUR GOD**

Second Sunday in Advent

December 3 & 6, 2020

“All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.... ‘The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.’” John the Baptist

PRAYER UPON ENTERING GOD’S HOUSE

Heavenly Father, prepare my heart to worship you. Through your Word, make me sincerely repentant for the many sins which I have committed and reassure me of your loving kindness in my Savior, Christ Jesus. Through your Holy Spirit, keep my thoughts focused on the eternal truths which will be spoken and sung today. Guide and bless those leading in worship today. Make this service a celebration of your goodness and grace. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

WELCOME

Christ’s Coming Is So Sure and Important, He Prepares the Way

Opening Hymn:

CCLI Song #7138252

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

CCLI License #20031593

 Verse 1  **Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

C Verse 2

♪ **Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne. *(repeat)***

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

M The grace of our Lord (✝) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Verse 1 

Messengers: You gave me hope, You made me whole at the cross
You took my pace, You showed me grace
At the cross, where You died for me.
And His glory appears like the light from the sun
Age to age He shines Oh, look to the skies hear the angels cry
Singing, "Holy is the Lord!"

C Verse 2 

**You gave me hope,
You made me whole at the cross
You took my place,
You showed me grace
At the cross, where You died for me.
And His glory appears
Like the light from the sun
Age to age He shines
Oh, look to the skies hear the angels cry
Singing, "Holy is the Lord!"**

CCLI Song #5407301

CCLI License #20031593

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M 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.

C **Amen.**

BE SEATED

Epistle Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² 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.

¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

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

C 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.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”*—³*“a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”*

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The 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. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And 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. ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

Hymn of the Day:

Praise Charts Song #27588

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CCLI License #20031593

Verse 1

Messengers: O come O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel.
Who mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 2

 **O come, O come thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient time did give the law
In cloud in majesty, and awe.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Verse 3

 **O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night.
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

bridge 

Messengers: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!

 Final refrain

 **Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Darin Aden

Isaiah 40:1-11

“Comfort, Comfort, My People”

40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been complete that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

³A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will 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 like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

⁹You 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!” ¹⁰See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹He 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.

Sermon Response:

CCLI Song #713997

He Shall Reign

CCLI License #20031593

Verse 1  **Messengers:** Holy, holy, holy, our God is on the throne
So firm is His foundation
No power can over-throw.
And He shall reign forever and ever.

 Verse 2  **One name outlasts the ages**
Through time His truth revealed
While kings may pass like shadows
Our God is sovereign still.

 REFRAIN  **And He shall reign forever and ever.**
And He shall reign forever and ever.
And He shall reign forever and ever.
And He shall reign forever and ever.

bridge  **Messengers:** To the Lamb upon the throne
Halle-lujah, halle-lujah!
To the Lord forev-ermore
Halle-lujah, halle-lujah!

 Bridge  **To the Lamb upon the throne**
Halle-lujah, halle-lujah!
To the Lord forev-ermore
Halle-lujah, halle-lujah!
Halle-lujah, halle-lujah!
Halle-lujah, halle-lujah!

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

C Verse 3  **The day I stand before Him
What praise will fill my soul
And there behold His glory
And praise Him all the more.**

C REFRAIN  **And He shall reign forever and ever.
And He shall reign forever and ever.
And He shall reign forever and ever.
And He shall reign forever and ever.**

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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 ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

M **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.**

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

Praise Charts Song #74093

Christmas Amazing Grace

CCLI License #20031593

- C** Verse 1 **♪ This Holy Child is born to us**
For all the world to see
Peace on the earth, good will to men
To God all glory be.
- C** Verse 2 **♪ This couple traveled from afar**
Arrived in Bethlehem
And in the inn they sought to stay
There was no room for them.
- C** Verse 3 **♪ They found a stable filled with hay**
A manger for a bed
God's Son was born this winter night
Just as the angels said.
- C** Verse 4 **♪ The shepherds left to see this boy**
They wandered through the night
The angels led the way to Him
A Savior wrapped in light.
- C** Verse 5 **♪ A star shone bright up in the east**
The wise men following
They brought Him gifts of gold and myrrh
To honor Christ the King.

(Hymn concludes on the next page.)

C Verse 6

♪ Jesus grew into a man
He died for you and me
But in three days He rose again
With us He'll ever be.
With us He'll ever be.

BE SEATED

OUR THANKS

*Our thanks for the proclamation of the Word in song to the Messengers:
Abby & Phil Stuebs, Gene Rosera, Deb & Gary Bernhardt.*

