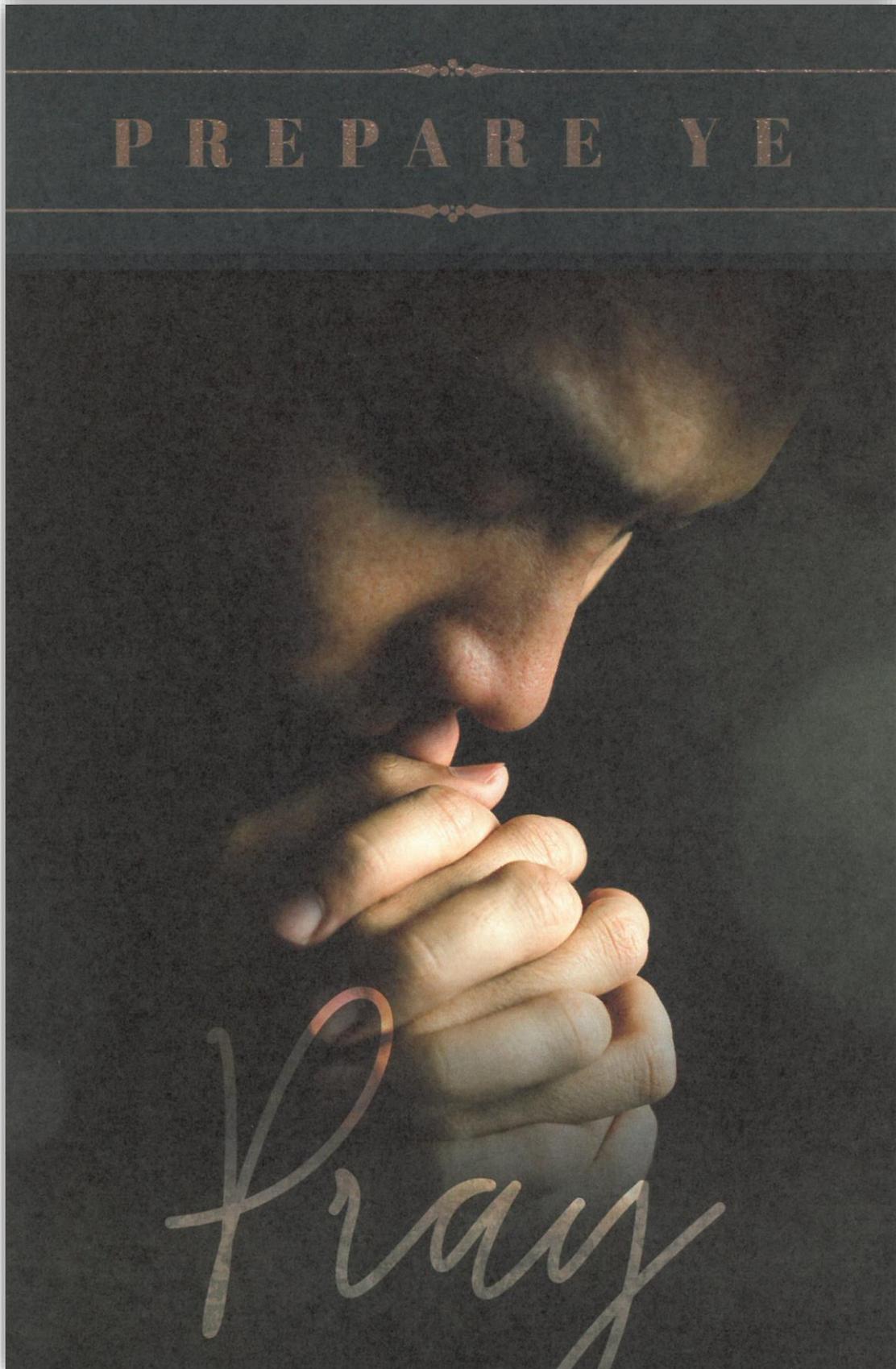


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

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Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

Second Sunday of Advent

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PREPARE YE THE SEASON OF ADVENT “Pray”

PREPARE YE

**“Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight
in the desert a highway for our God.” *Isaiah 40:3***

Welcome to our Advent worship. Each week in this series will contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas. In our worship for the second week in Advent we will think about ways in which we can take more time during this season to communicate to our God through prayer as we wait for Christ.

Zechariah, who went to the temple to pray, serves as an example for us of how hard that waiting in prayer can be.

***“But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.”
Psalm 69:13***

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(Two blue or purple candles are lit.)

We light the second candle on the Advent wreath as we remember that God promises to hear our prayers.

Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers.

God says, “Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me” (Psalm 50:15).

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to deliver us!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry—

Too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name.

What our hearts can no longer bear.

And what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

As parents, we have not fully loved our children.

As children, we have not fully loved our parents.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change.

Open to us a future where we can be changed.

**And grant us grace to grow more and more in the image and likeness of Jesus. Lord, have mercy!
Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

Surely the Lord is in this place as the God of love and kindness who forgives you, frees you, heals you, strengthens you and raises you up to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. He also sends his Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of parents to their children.

To make ready a people prepared!

OPENING SONG

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

*Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last. Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake; your lamps with gladness take!"*

Alleluia!

Rise and prepare the feast to share; go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.

*Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom. Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.*

Now come, O Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son.

Sing hosanna!

Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all, and follow to the banquet hall.

*Gloria! Let heav'n adore you! Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone. Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming, with angel choirs around your throne.*

*No eye has caught the light, no ear the thund'ring might
of such glory.*

There we will go: what joy we'll know! There sweet delight will ever flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Composite Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

SHARING THE PEACE – Give someone a call today!

ADVENT LITANY – “Pray”

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

God promises to be with us and keep us wherever we go.

He will not leave us until he has done what he has promised.

Surely the Lord is in this place!

This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

For God sent John the Baptist—

To turn the hearts of parents to their children.

To make ready a people prepared!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that in your providence you sent John the Baptist to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents to make ready a people prepared for the coming of our Savior; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 28:10-17

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!" ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Timothy 2:1-6

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all —

this was attested at the right time.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The leader says the lines and performs the motions.

*The children and congregation repeat the words
and motions line by line.*

Zechariah prayed to God

(Place hands together in prayer)

And his prayers were heard.

(Cup hands to ears)

An angel was sent down to earth,

(Point up, then point down)

Bringing God's own Word:

(Open hands as an open book)

"Your wife will have a son named John,

(Rock "baby" in your arms)

And John, with prophet's voice,

(Cup hands to mouth as if shouting)

Will shout the good news everywhere:

(Sweep one hand in a big circle)

'The Savior comes! Rejoice!'"

(Raise both hands in praise)

Family Advent Craft: Prayer Reminder Cards

Family Advent Conversation

*Instructions and questions for today's craft
are at the end of the bulletin.*

SONG OF THE DAY *“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”*

*On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.*

*We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow’rs that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.*

*All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.*

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

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 THE COMMUNITY

St. Paul writes, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Compassionate Father, today we bring before you those with whom we share the closest relationships—members of our families. How we long for you to be gracious on behalf of our children, our parents, our siblings and our extended families. We believe that you will—

Turn the hearts of parents to their children.

Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon the people we cherish. For our children, siblings and parents who don’t know you, bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus. For our family members who are living destructive lives, save them from themselves. In the meandering of their madness, bring the grandeur of your goodness. We believe that you will—

Turn the hearts of children to their parents.

Tender Father, for family members who are having failing health, financial stress, emotional stress or mental illness, marital meltdown or relational disconnect, pour forth your life-giving Spirit. Where there is weariness, bring your presence; where there is hopelessness, bring encouragement; where there is despair, be a mighty and merciful God. We believe that you will—

Turn the hearts of children to their parents.

To make ready a people prepared. We pray in the matchless and merciful name of Jesus.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

BLESSING

Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

God heard Zechariah’s prayer!

His wife Elizabeth bore a son named John.

Who turns the children of Israel to the Lord their God,

And goes before Jesus in the spirit and power of Elijah.

To turn the hearts of the parents to the children to make ready a people prepared!

THREE-FOLD AMEN

SENDING SONG

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

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:

*Refrain Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!*

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! Refrain

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: Refrain

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: Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Ponder the gift given in Jesus, God's Son..

Thanks be to God.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) (electronic giving).

Postlude

*By Reed Lessing. Cover design: Lindsay Taylor. © 2020 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800- 325-9414.
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format for use in worship.*

Family Advent Craft: Prayer Reminder Cards

Needed: 3" x 5" index cards (may be ruled or unruled, white or multi-colored); scissors; markers, colored pencils and crayons.

Directions:

1. Give each participant a small stack of cards. Fold and cut each index card in half.
2. On one side of each small card, write down a reminder to pray for family members, friends, co-workers. Include reminders for prayers of thanksgiving and praise, such as thanks to God for family, home, work and the gift of his Son!
3. On the opposite side of the card, draw a simple picture or colorful design.
4. At home, place the cards in a small bowl (a colorful Christmas bowl, if one is available). Each day during family devotions, or at any time, draw a card from the bowl and pray for the person or need mentioned. If you wish, keep a few blank cards and a pen or pencil near the bowl for new prayer reminders.

Family Advent Conversation

Discuss these questions as you work on the craft or after the craft is complete:

1. When does your family pray together?
2. Who do you want to pray for today?
3. Where is your favorite place to pray?