



Welcome! As our Lord Jesus Christ said, Peace be with you. Wherever you come from and wherever you are on your journey of faith, we are glad you are with us. Let us enter into God's presence together.

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Watch and subscribe on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQdMrwgOpQqS6vn68WMxhow>

Prelude

Two preludes on Advent hymns

Robert A. Benson

"There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

"Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding"

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader

Every journey faces the unknown. And anxiety can sometimes overwhelm us. There is too much to do; our lists are long; our calendars are filled up; we worry that something will go wrong, or we won't end up in the right place or take the right route. Getting lost is a real possibility on a journey. And yet. We claim hope for the journey, because we follow the one who will travel with us and sustain us on the way.

Reader

Isaiah says that there is one who is to come who will be the fulfillment of all our hope. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on this one, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. We place our hope in this one.

People

Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.

Reader

We light the candles of peace and of hope to give us strength for the journey.

(Light two candles on the wreath.)

Reader

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace and hope.

Opening Hymn.....*“Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding”*Hymnal #59

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

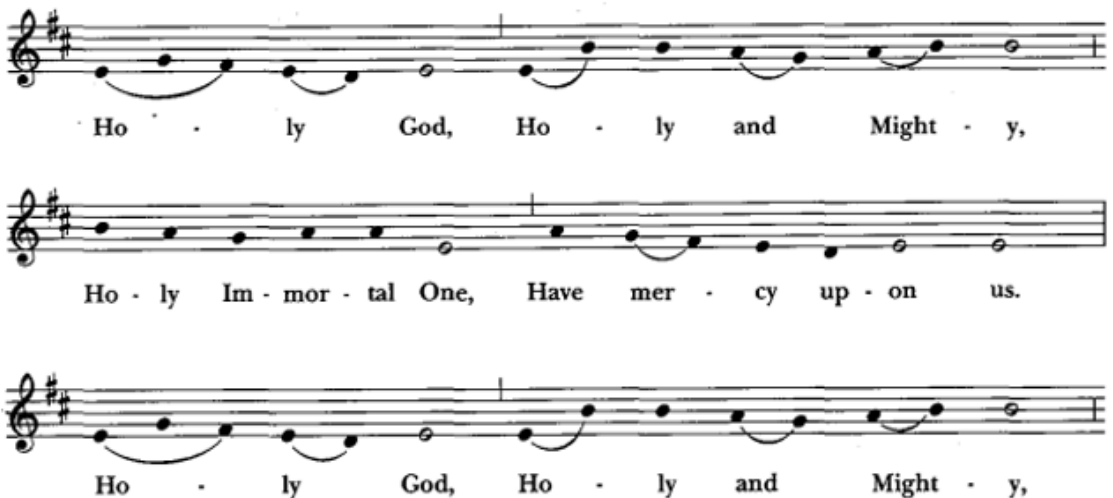
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trisagion

S99





Setting: Plainsong, Mode 1; adapt. Bruce E. Ford (b. 1947)

The Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Time

First Lesson

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 for ever.
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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

The refrain is first sung by a cantor, then repeated by all.



Righ - teous - ness shall pre - pare a path - way for God.

The verses are sung by a cantor. All sing the refrain where indicated.

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.

⁸I 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.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land. ***Refrain***

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway. ***Refrain***

Text from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006

Music by Thomas Pavlechko © 2004, 2012 admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15

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; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn.....“*There’s a voice in the wilderness crying*”.....Hymnal #75

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

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.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Bob Bagley

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*Please respond to the bidding, “Let us pray to the Lord” with “**Lord have mercy.**”*

In the communion of the ever-blessed Virgen Mary, St. Luke, and all of the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
To you, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Please kneel or stand.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen**

The Priest, stands and says
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen

The Peace *All stand.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory “*Comfort, comfort ye my people*” Gerald Near

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving Please Stand. Book of Common Prayer 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. . .
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the
company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus from “Missa Emmanuel”

Cantor, then all:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

Cantor:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

All:

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Cantor:

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the

All:

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high -

est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Missa Emmanuel*, Richard Proulx, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

The people may stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. . . .therefore according to your command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you O Lord of all. . .

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours,
Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

“Agnus Dei from Missa Emmanuel”

Cantor

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you take a - way the sins of the world,
3. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:
1.2. have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. 3. grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion

In the Episcopal Church, all are welcome at the table of the Lord. If you have been baptized in any Christian tradition, you may receive communion. If you have not been baptized, you are welcome to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would like to receive a blessing or to indicate that you do not want to receive the bread or wine.

Communion Hymn.....“*Comfort, comfort ye my people*”.....Hymnal #67

Post-communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

**Almighty and ever living God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Sending out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant: (Name), we send you out to share Communion this week with (Name).
People: **May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ’s presence.**
Celebrant: May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ.
All: **Amen**

Blessing *Please stand.*

Recessional Hymn.....“*Prepare the way O Zion*”.....Hymnal #65

Dismissal

Postlude *“Little’ Prelude and Fugue in G major”* *attributed to J.S. Bach*

We welcome you to St. Luke’s in the name of the Risen Lord. Please join us for fellowship in Simpson Hall immediately following the service -coffee, juice, and snacks are available.

TODAY’S MINISTERS

ACOLYTE: Roger Mertins

ALTAR GUILD: Kathie Thompson

FIRST READER: Cindy Ganzel

SECOND READER: Marshall Cushman

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Becky Turk

CANTOR: Jenna Meola

PARISH PERSON OF THE DAY: Jessica MacPhail

USHERS: Brian Paulhus, David Lang

TODAY’S COFFEE HOUR: Birthday Sunday

NEXT WEEK’S COFFEE HOUR: Men of the Church

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For our Parish

For the Churches of the World

The Church of Pakistan (United)
St. Marc's Church & school in Jeanette, Haiti
Cadnet Edneron and Charline Irossaint

For the Episcopal Ministries in Racine:

Congregations of St. Luke's and St. Michael's Diocese of Milwaukee
Hospitality Center
Racine Vocational Ministry
The DeKoven Center

Those who are Sick or in Need or Homebound

Debbie, Bethany, Laandan, Tony, Christi, Chris, Ron, Gerald, Lisa, Jean, Jason, Ed,
John, Pam, Jack, Neil, Olivia, Bill, Kathie, Leah, Sally, Esther, Michelle
Homebound Barbara, Jeanne, Shirley

For Recent Immigrants to Racine

Khalid, Christiana, Ayo, Ako, and those arrived from Afghanistan

Special Offering

Cash or checks in the offering that are not designated for regular needs will be given to the
Haiti Project. Thank you for your generous support of this ministry.

Today's **Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of the sisters of St. Mary
by Draice Griffin

Thanksgiving for Birthday

Mary

Help Decorate the Hospitality Center Christmas Tree!

Your gift makes the season brighter AND helps provide:

35,000 Meals
Monthly Laundry Love Services
Weekly Hair Salon
Bus Passes for the Community
Pastoral Care and Spiritual Support
A Safe and Welcoming Environment for All!

How it Works:

- 1) Select an ornament. Every ornament has a suggested gift amount.
- 2) Send a check with your gift using the addressed envelope or QR code.
- 3) Add your new Hospitality Center ornament to your own tree or give it as a gift.
- 4) With every gift, we add another ornament to the Hospitality Center tree!

The Hospitality Center is a shared ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee and the Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA

Christmas Flowers and Music

The gorgeous poinsettias on the altar at Christmas are only possible through the generosity of parishioners and parish groups. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones, please make out a check to St. Luke's and put "Christmas Flowers" on memo line. Envelopes are available, or you can mail your donation to the parish office. Please be sure to include the names of person(s) and/or the reason (thanksgiving or memorial) the flowers are being given. Donations towards the music program and Christmas singers are also welcome. Please indicate if the donation is for Christmas flowers, Christmas music, or to split between both. Thank you!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter – Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Milwaukee

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John Weit – Organist

Martha Guzman – Parish Administrator stlukesracine@gmail.com

VESTRY

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Wally Herman – Treasurer

Jessica MacPhail, Tricia Frost, Hazel Dickfoss, Roger Mertins,

Becky Turk, Mick Burke, Everett McKinney

