

Worship Guide

December 06, 2020

We call the Advent Christmas season a season of peace. Yet this season can be anything but peaceful. Add to this the clamor “to get” and we forget the greatest gift we get is giving of ourselves.



Pastor: We begin in the name of the triune God, Father, Son (†) and Holy Spirit. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord.

C: Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope.

C: A message of hope? This world is hopeless. There is little good news shared. No one cares.

P: We light this candle again as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us.

Congregation: The God of hope will fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

P: The second candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. There is no peace. People want to live in anger, hostility, misery. The newspapers are very quick to pick up all the troubles and violence. Yet our peace is found in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. We light this candle today to remind us that he brings peace to all who trust in him.

Light the Second Candle

HYMN:

Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 11

**Comfort, comfort all my people, speak of peace, so says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, groaning from their sorrow's load.
Speak to all Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, that their warfare now is over.**

**All their sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change their aching sadness into ever-springing gladness.**



CONFESSION OF SINS AND PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

P: When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, we turn towards you and we produce fruit shaped by your love for us. Yet we can be so driven by seasonal busy-ness that our fruitfulness suffers.

C: This season is filled with your peace, yet we fill ourselves with strife with others, anxiety over things we cannot control and hurriedness to do more than we should.

P: Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that robs us the peace which you came to bring.

C: May we find peace in your forgiveness of our sins. May we find peace in our families, our communities and our world.

P: May your peace be evident in our speech, our actions and our thoughts that we may stir up anxiety around us.

C: For Jesus' sake send your Spirit into us and make us instruments of your peace.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

P: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who does wondrous things . (Psalm 72: 8) The most wondrous of all being God's entry into our world in Jesus Christ, "not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." So be assured of the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



1ST LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice is calling out: In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD. In the wasteland make a level highway for our God. ⁴Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The rugged ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh together will see it. Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken. ⁶A voice was saying, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry out?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside. ⁷Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the LORD blows on them. Yes, the people are grass. ⁸Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever. ⁹Get up on a high mountain, O Zion, you herald of good news. Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, you herald of good news. Lift it up! Do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰Look, God the LORD will come with strength, and his arm is ruling for him. Look, his reward is with him. The result of his work is in front of him. ¹¹Like a shepherd he will care for his flock. With his arm he will gather the lambs. He will lift them up on his lap. He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

2ND LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: For the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to do what he promised, as some consider slowness. Instead, he is patient for your sakes, not wanting anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the

day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up. ¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, ¹²as you look forward to and hasten the coming of the day of God? That day will cause the heavens to be set on fire and destroyed, and the elements to melt as they burn with great heat. ¹³But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight.

(tune: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

**♪ O Prince of Peace, on Whom we cast our every cross and care,
Come enter Thou our longing hearts, and make Thy dwelling there;
And may amid our daily toil to Thee our praises bring,
Until on high we learn the song that now the angels sing.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 13:32-37

³²“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. ³⁵Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!”

MEDITATION TEXT: Hebrews 6:10

“For God is not unjust. He will not forget your work and the love that you showed for his name’s sake, when you served the saints, and while you continue to serve them.”

**IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE WHEN ALL YOU CAN TAKE
WITH YOU IS WHAT YOU HAVE GIVEN AWAY**



CONFESSION OF FAITH: (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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.



P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

Our Communion Practices:

Close Communion: Guided by God's word we believe that the Lord's Supper is an expression of faith and confession. Therefore we ask that only members of the WELS or her sister synods would commune with us. If you have any questions please talk to the pastor.

DISTRIBUTION

CLOSING PRAYER

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 forever. Amen

BLESSING

C: Amen.

HYMN:

Behold a Branch Is Growing

CW 47 v.1

**Behold, a rose is growing, of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sang, foreknowing; it springs from Jesse's race,
And bears one little flow'r, in midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.**

SPECIAL PRAYERS