



Sunday, December 4, 2022 Service
Advent 2, Year A
Officiated by a Lay Minister

GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANISTEE, MICHIGAN

GATHERING

GATHERING VOLUNTARY

“Comfort, Comfort, Now My People”

Setting by Egil Hovland (1924–2013)

Setting by Anton Wilhelm Leupold (1868–1940)

WELCOME

All who are able, stand at the invitation of the presiding minister.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent. The first candle is HOPE and the second candle is PEACE.

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in the community, ad peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.

HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” ELW 240 Verse 2

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

As we prepare for this great gift, let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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 as given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ELW 249

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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

☩ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
 free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and
 strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
 hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
 might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
 has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 forever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

**May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.
Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,
and to the | Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will | be forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans:

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All who are able, stand for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Prepare the Royal Highway” ELW 264

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 INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Heavenly Father, You have wonderfully created all things and with Your grace and mercy, granted us new life through Christ our Savior. Clear the path before us that we may remain in Your grace and mercy and do those things which are pleasing to You. Guide our footsteps and enliven our hearts that in all we do, we bring praise to You by the grace You grant through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

Lord Jesus, the One who was, who is, and who is to come, You have given us Your word of hope and promise. You are the living Gospel which has been poured into our hearts and given us hope through the promise of the redemption which is ours through You. By the grace You have poured out from the cross, lead us in the

way of the cross that we might now and forever abide in You as You abide in us. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

Come Holy Spirit and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Renew in us a right spirit and cleanse our hearts and minds that we may be prepared to live in the hope which is ours in the redemption of Christ our Savior. Lead us this day, and all of the days You grant us, in order that we may be prepared for all that is to come. Keep our hearts and minds close to the truth which has been revealed through the Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

We thank You Almighty God for the manifold benefits which are ours through the promise which produces the hope within us in the saving knowledge of the Gospel which You have given us. In Your mercy and grace, guide us into all righteousness, conforming our lives to the image of Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

All authority belongs to You Lord God. You grant authority to whom You grant authority. Help us to obey all of Your commands and honor those whom You have appointed to positions of oversight. Be with all who are in positions of authority and be the One who leads them. Watch over our president, governor, and all who are in authority. Lead our bishop, dean, and all pastors to rightly proclaim the Gospel You have given us. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

Great Physician, bring healing into our midst. Bind up those who are hurting, heal those who are sick, and let the truth of Your Gospel heal those who are estranged from You. Be with all caregivers and help them to be mindful of the tasks You have given them to do. Hear us now as we pray for those for whom we have concern, lifting their names up to You, whether spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The people exchange signs of peace, all are seated.

ANTHEM

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates”

David von Kampen (b. 1986)

Please stand.

MEAL

PRAYER

Let us pray,

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit Be with you.

Amen.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

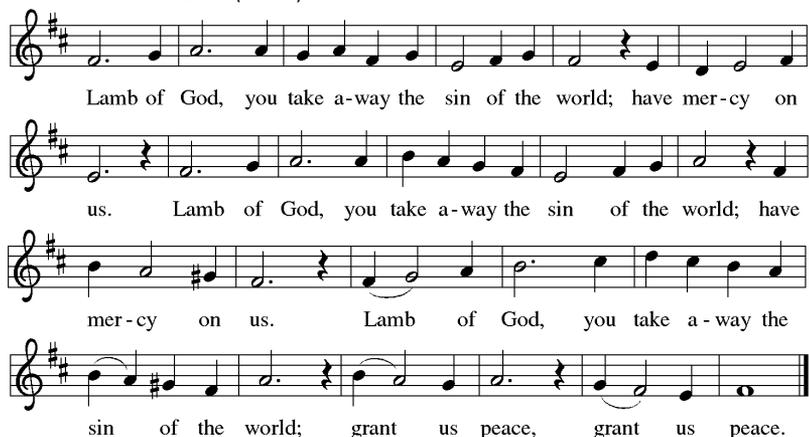
LORD'S PRAYER

Father, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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, forever and ever. Amen

LAMB OF GOD (ELW4)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

All are welcome to commune.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

“Creator of the Stars of Night”
Setting by Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)
Setting by Alec Rowley (1892–1958)

All who are able, please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” ELW 256

PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

SENDING HYMN

“Blessed Be the God of Israel” ELW 250

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SENDING VOLUNTARY

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Setting by Paul Manz (1919–2009)

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