

Prepare the Way

“Repent”

December 10, 2023

As We Gather

John the Baptist was chosen by God to prepare the way for the ministry of Christ. John’s message reflects that way God always calls His people to prepare for His coming: Repent. So we too, as we prepare to commemorate Christ’s first coming, and anticipate His second, are called to repentance. But what does this mean? What is repentance and why is it so important?

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry” LSB 344

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!	Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
2 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.	4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand; Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.
3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;	5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free. Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Peace Candle

Leader: Today we light the second candle of the Advent wreath. The second candle is the candle of PEACE.

(The HOPE and PEACE candles are lit.)

Leader: **John 14:27** - *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Leader: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, fill us with Your peace, the peace found only in You, the peace beyond anything that this world can give, that in all the trials and difficulties of this life, we may rest secure in Your grace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save;
And give them in vict'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain

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.
Refrain

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give law,
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

Prayer

Children Excused to Children's Church

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A 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.
⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
 because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
 Surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
 but the word of our God endures forever."
⁹ You 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!"
¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
 and he rules with a mighty arm.
 See, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense accompanies him.
¹¹ He 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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.’”

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ!

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon

“Repent”

Ministry Moment

LCC K9 Comfort Dogs

Offering

Musical Offering**“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”****Sanctuary Choir**

Peace be to you and grace from him
 Who freed us from our sins
 Who loved us all and shed his blood
 That we might saved be

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord
 The Lord, Almighty God
 Who was, and is, and is to come
 Sing Holy, Holy Lord

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within
 Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
 For Christ is coming, is coming soon
 For Christ is coming soon

E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come
 And night shall be no more
 They need no light nor lamp nor sun
 For Christ will be their All!

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the chat.

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

St. John's People and Families

Rita Alexander
 Nancy Gressinger
 Dave & Renee Lloyd
 Doug, DeDe, Delaney, Dustin, & Donovan Messner
 Mia Wagner
 Massi, Jen, Giulia, & Luca Boldrini
 Marc, Jennifer, & Nico Gallo
 Andrew, Heather, Kelly, & Therese Hodges
 Kevin, Sheree, Kinley, & Collins Moorhead
 Robert, Haley, Emersyn, & Mila Shackford

+ The Service of Holy Communion +**Preface**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead

and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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

People: Amen.

Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

People: Amen. *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

People: Amen. *(Take and drink)*

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" LW 347

1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."

2 Yea, her 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 her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman/We Three Kings"

God rest ye merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our savior
Was born upon this day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly father
This blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The son of God by name
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

O, Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

O, Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now, behold Him arise.
King and God and sacrifice
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
Worship him God most high

O, Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.
God rest ye merry gentlemen
God rest ye merry gentlemen
God rest ye merry gentlemen
God rest ye merry gentlemen

Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

People: Amen.

Prayer

+ Sending +

Benediction

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Verse 1

Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

Verse 2

Christ by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,

Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Son of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

Memory Verse for This Week

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Michelle Roberts
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Tyler Koen
Streaming Technician	Joel Wahlers
Projector Tech	Bob Klein
Communion Assistants	Andrea Clark, Gerry Schneider, Mike Newton, Paula Schweiger
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Children's Church Leaders	Nina Montes, Debbie Kirkpatrick, Pam Watkins
Usher	Bev & Clint Holdsworth
Worship Band	Thane Knutson, Heidi Newman, Judi & Steve Rock

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