

**December 6, 2020**

*The Second Sunday of Advent*



*Tune in to 98.5 FM*

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

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(256)721-0041 / [www.mlutheran.org](http://www.mlutheran.org)

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

*Bread of Life from **With One Voice***

THE PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

Most merciful God,

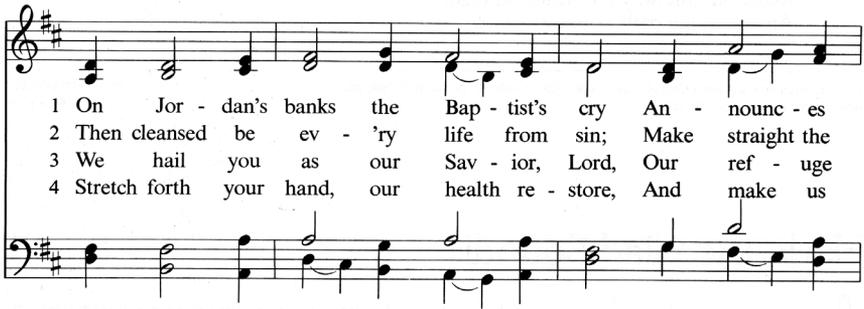
**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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 was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

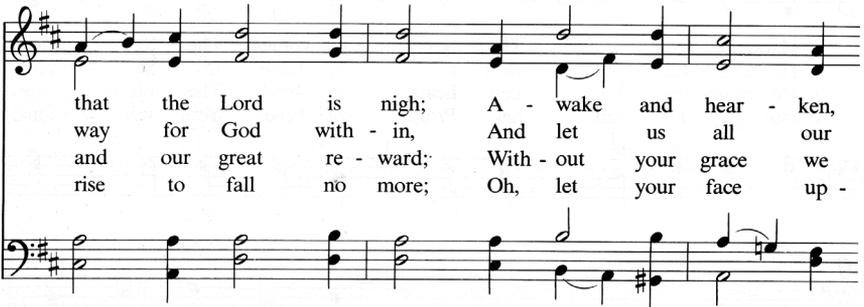
**Amen**

HYMN: "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" vs 1,2,5

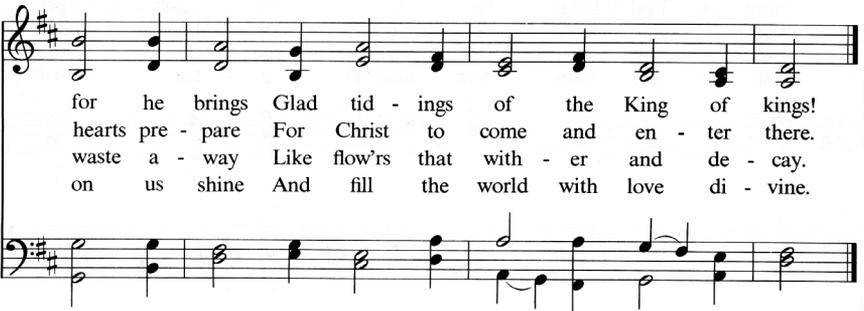
## On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And make us



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
 way for God with - in, And let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; With - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; Oh, let your face up -



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine And fill the world with love di - vine.

- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
 Whose advent has our freedom won,  
 Whom with the Father we adore,  
 And Holy Spirit, evermore.

## THE 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.**

## THE KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

### THE 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 forever.

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.

THE PSALM

*Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13*

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

<sup>2</sup> **You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup> I will listen to what the LORD God is saying,  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

<sup>9</sup> **Truly, his salvation is very near  
to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup> Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup> **Truth shall spring up from the earth,**

**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> **Righteousness shall go before him,  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:8-15a

But 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Return to the Lord"

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn  
to the Lord, your God, who is grac - ious  
and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger,  
and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” vs 1,2

## Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 630

1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system is a single melodic line in treble clef. The second system is a piano accompaniment with a treble clef for the right hand and a bass clef for the left hand. The lyrics are printed below the first system.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## THE SERMON

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
 and born of the virgin Mary,  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 He will come again 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**

### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

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.**

### THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE OFFERING

### THE OFFERTORY: "Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord"



Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Amen

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

## THE AGNUS DEI



☐ 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

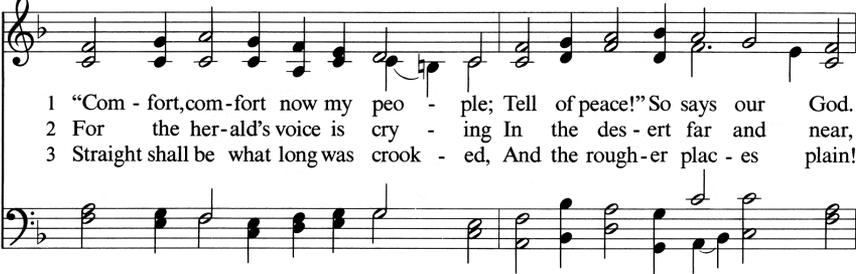


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

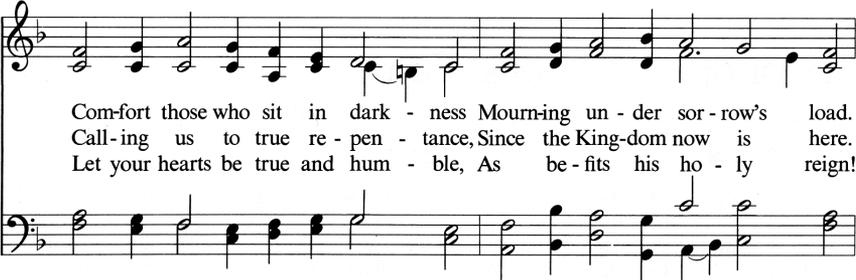
## THE DISTRIBUTION

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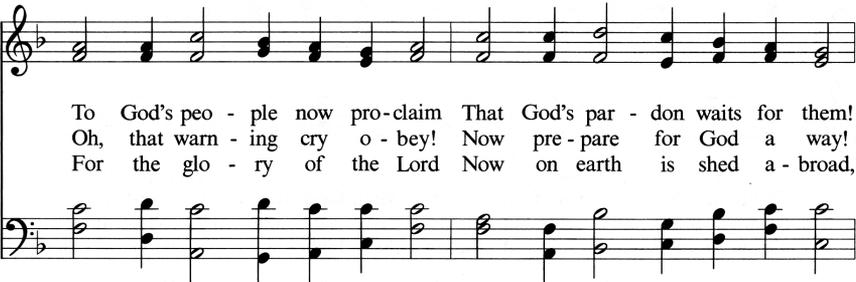
Comfort, Comfort Now My People



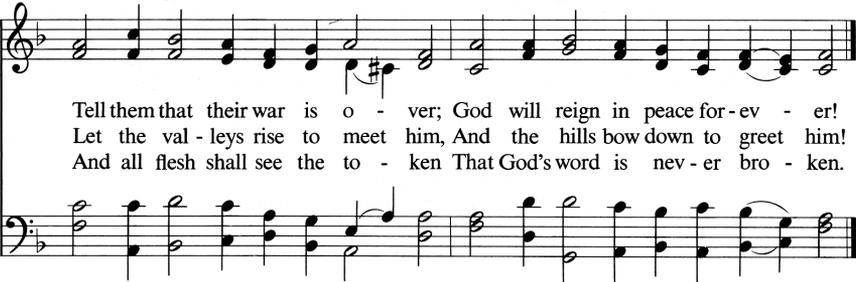
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, And the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Mourning un - der sor - row's load.  
 Call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, Since the King - dom now is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro - claim That God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er!  
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him!  
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## Prepare the Royal Highway

26

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; Their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**Amen**

*(silence for reflection)*

## THE BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

## THE DISMISSAL

## THE POSTLUDE