



FORGIVEN!

Second Sunday in Advent

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music & Greeting

The Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prepare My Heart, Lord Jesus!”

Opening Hymn

“Arise, O Christian People”
Christian Worship 14 st. 1-3

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away.
To us, by grace alone the truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before him; prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, this great, this heav’nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way; the lowly valley’s raising,
The heights of pride abasing, his path all even lay.

The Congregation will stand

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror the haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, that heeds God’s invitation
And makes true preparation — it is the Lord’s delight.

Prepare My Heart through Forgiveness

P: Whenever we pray the Lord’s Prayer we speak the words, “Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.” Forgiveness is a precious gift from the Lord which declares our sins are completely take away. It also enables us to forgive the

sins of those who sin against us. It is this life of forgiveness to which our Savior commends us, and for which we pray:

“If you forgive people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive people their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”
(Matthew 6:14-15)

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Prepare My Heart through Forgiveness

P: God has heard and answered your plea for mercy, and has given his one and only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for your sins. Be assured nothing can separate you from the undeserved love of God. Be confident of God’s powerful rescue in Christ Jesus. Be at peace because all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Because of God’s undeserved love for us in his Son, Jesus Christ, we can live lives of peace and faithfulness, rejoicing in the gracious gift of forgiveness. It is through this gift we can walk in the light of life, ever be prepared to welcome our coming Savior.

“If we walk in the light, just as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. My children, I write these things to you so that you will not sin. If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate before the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.”
(1 John 1:7, 2:1-2)

P: As the second candle of the Advent wreath is lit, rejoice, because your sins are forgiven. Rejoice, because you live at peace with God and all people. Rejoice, because God's Son came into the world to secure forgiveness.

Hymn verse

“Arise, O Christian People”
Christian Worship 14 st. 4

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you this blessed Adventide.
From stall and manger low come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.

Prayer of the Day

P: O gracious Lord, as you led David to pray for a clean heart and a right spirit, so lead us. Humble us so we acknowledge our sin and confess it before the cross. Then, lead us to rejoice in those precious words, “all your sins are forgiven.” Bless us with your love, and bless us so we are ready to welcome your Son at his coming. Make the forgiveness he came to secure our joy, our delight, and our most priceless treasure. Hear us and strengthen us to the glory of your name—Father, Son, and Spirit.



C: A — — men!

The Lessons from God's Word

“We have peace through the forgiveness of sins!”

Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, 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.

Psalm for the Day

Psalm 85

Refrain



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Psalm tone



You showed favor to your | land, O LORD; *
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your | people, *
and covered | all their sins.

Show us your unfailing | love, O LORD; *
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Refrain

I will listen to what God the | LORD will say; *
he promises peace to his people, | his saints.

Surely salvation is near those who | fear him, *
that his glory may dwell | in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet to- | gether; *
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son, *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

Epistle

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.

Response to the Lesson

P: The end of all things is near. So have sound judgment and be self-controlled for the sake of your prayers. Above all, love each other constantly, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Serve one another, each according to the gift he has received, as good stewards of the many forms of God's grace . . . If anyone serves, let him do it as one serving with the strength God supplies so that God may be glorified in every way through Jesus Christ.



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

²Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare the way for you.

³A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make his paths straight.”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem
were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan
River as they confessed their sins. ⁶John was clothed in camel’s
hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts
and wild honey. ⁷He preached, “One more powerful than I is
coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the
strap of his sandals! ⁸I baptized you with water, but he will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P: This is the Word of our God!

Congregation responds

“Blest Be the God of Israel”
Christian Worship 275 st. 1

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
He visits and redeems us; he grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace.

Hymn of the Day

“On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry”
Christian Worship 16

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin
And furnished for a guest within,

And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore;
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

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

Prepare, My Heart, Lord Jesus! _____

Sermon

Mark 1:4

“John Appeared with Forgiveness!”
To fulfill the prophet’s promise
To prepare people to meet the coming Lord

The Confession of Faith

(We join in the words of the Apostles Creed)

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

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

**He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church—the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks!

Prayers for the Day

Special Prayers and requests

The Lord's Prayer

(spoken with the pastor)

**C: 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!**

Hymn

“Comfort, Comfort, All My People”
Christian Worship 11

“Comfort, comfort, all my people;
Speak of peace,” so says our God.

“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Groaning from their sorrows’ 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 deserve his anger
He no more will see or heed.
They have suffered many a day;
Now their griefs have passed away.
God will change their aching sadness
Into ever springing gladness.

John the Baptist’s voice is crying
In the desert far and fear.
Calling people to repentance
For the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet him
And the hills bow down to greet him.

Straighten out the crooked highway;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
Ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o’er earth is spread abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That his Word is never broken.

Closing Prayer

P: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. We rejoice,

O Lord, in your faithful promise to send a forerunner to announce the coming of your Son. With his testimony people were prepared through the forgiveness of their sins and the washing of holy baptism. Our joy only increases because the work of John the Baptist still prepares us to receive our Savior. By the working of the Word lead us to repent of our sins. By the sacrifice of Jesus wash away every filthy spot and stain. By the gracious working of the Holy Spirit keep us faithful as we watch and wait, ever preparing ourselves to receive you, our Savior, who lives and rules together with Father and the Holy Spirit—our gracious, faithful, and Triune God.



C: A ——— men.

The Benediction:

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
 The Lord bless you and keep you,
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A — men. A ——— men. A ——— men.

Closing Hymn

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”
Christian Worship 26 st. 1 & 3

Jesus came the heav’ns adoring,
 Came with peace from realms on high;
 Jesus came to win redemption,
 Lowly came on earth to die.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bring news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—*Welcome in Name of our promised and coming Savior, Jesus Christ!* What a blessing it is to hear of God the Father's graciousness to forgive our sins and receive us as his children. May the Lord's undeserved love lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

- If you are visiting today, please sign the guest book or a guest card, and worship again, soon!
- Bible Class will begin at 11:00 am to review the Epistle where Peter asks an important question, "what kind of people should we be?"

Monday—Handbell Choir practice at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday—Pastor's Circuit Study in Lancaster at 10:00 am

- Ladies Christmas Fellowship at 7:00 pm. Jan Scheffler will host this evening's get-together.

Wednesday—There will be no Bible Class until the New Year. On January 10th we will begin a "Primer on the Passion," which reviews the prophecies regarding Jesus.

Friday—Office Hours from 10:30—2:30 pm

Saturday—Church Cleaning: J. Schueler

- Lawn beginning December 10th—J. Everson

Sunday, December 17th—Sunday Worship and Live Streaming at 9:30 am. We continue with the Advent theme: Prepare My Heart, Lord Jesus. Through the prophet Isaiah, we hear a message of "good news" which God sent into the world through the coming Savior.

- Bible Class will review Paul's exhortation to the Christians in Thessalonica—rejoice always; pray without ceasing; and give thanks.

- Decorating, Chili & Fellowship will begin at 3:30 pm. The rest of the schedule is printed below.

Coming Events ---

Annual Ladies Christmas Get-together and Cookie Exchange

This evening of fun and fellowship will be **December 12th** at 7:00 pm. Jan Scheffler will be the host. Please speak to Jan Scheffler or Debbie Aitkins for more information—what to bring, etc.

Church Decorating and Chili

This year we will prepare the church for the celebration of Jesus' birth on **December 17th**. The schedule will be as follows —

- ◇ Decorating at 3:30 pm
- ◇ Chili dinner at 5:30 pm
- ◇ Fellowship at Karolyn Hanna's home at 7:00 pm.

Please note there is a sign-up sheet for the dinner and desserts. You can bring chili, corn bread, salads, cheese, and of course, desserts for the fellowship at Karolyn's home. Also, the more help we receive, the quicker we will complete the decoration of the sanctuary. Thanks!

The Birth of our Savior.

In celebration of our Savior's birth, we will hold two services. Our Christmas Eve service will be Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 pm. Our Christmas Day service will be Sunday, December 25th at 9:30 am. Make sure you include both services as part of your Christmas plans. There will be a time for fellowship after both services.



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