

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Messengers and Messages

December 6 & 7, 2014

### AS WE GATHER

Throughout the ages, God has sent messengers with special messages for His people. Many centuries before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah told of how God would comfort His people. The ministry of Jesus was announced by the strong spoken messages of John the Baptizer in the wilderness. After the ascension of Jesus, written messages such as those of Peter, John, Paul, and James encouraged the first Christians into ongoing lives of faith and witness. Through His Word, the timeless messages of God come to us anew each week and in each changing season of the Church Year.

**8:00 PRE-SERVICE BELL ANTHEM** *“Angels We Have Heard on High”* arr. Arnold B. Sherman

### WELCOME

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,

"who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8, NIV)

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #347 “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

“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.”

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.

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 away;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

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.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### ADVENT HYMN

#### “Come, O Lord, We Wait in Hope”

Come, O Lord, we wait in hope, Prayer, and expectation.  
Make our hearts to know the peace Of Your blest salvation.  
Come, O Lord, our Morning Star, Light of light forever.  
May our lives reflect the glow Of Your grace, O Savior.

Come, Lord Jesus, as the King Long anticipated,  
Witnessed in prophetic Word, Joyfully awaited.

Come, Lord Jesus, and subdue Foes that would distress us.  
Be our true and lasting joy; By Your advent bless us.

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### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: 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, your Son, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Assured of God’s great mercy, let us confess together that we, by our heedless thoughts, careless words, and loveless deeds, have sinned against our gracious God and deserve His punishment now and eternally.

**People: Almighty God, we repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us your forgiveness so that, as your redeemed people, we may find rest in you and with refreshed hearts serve you in time and in eternity.**

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN #357**                      **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**                      Stanzas 1, 4 & 5  
*During the singing of the hymn, the first two candles  
on the Advent wreath are lighted.*

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 Branch of Jesse’s tree, Free them from Satan’s tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save, And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. **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**  
(Be seated)

✠ **WORD** ✠

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 40:1–11* (Comfort for God’s people is proclaimed.)  
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 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. A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings 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!" See, his reward

is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. 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.

**EPISTLE 2 Peter 3:8–14** (The day of the Lord will be coming.)

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. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 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 in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 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. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

**8:00 BELL ANTHEM**                      *“Gaudete”*                      arr. Matthew Compton

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 1:1–8* (John the Baptist announces the coming of Jesus.)

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" - "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' " And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

(Be seated)

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN #344 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”** *Rise for last stanza*

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!

Then cleansed be every life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flowers that wither and decay.

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 every place.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

**SERMON** *“Comforted or Comfortable?”* Isaiah 40:1-11

(Rise)

**APOSTLES’ CREED** *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register for the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord God, in the fullness of time you sent your servant John to be a voice crying in the wilderness, preparing the hearts of the people for the coming of Jesus Christ.

**People: Bless also the pastors you have sent out among your people in our generation, that they would faithfully proclaim your Law and your Gospel for the saving and comforting of many souls.**

Pastor: Bless all of the leaders of our congregation, Lord. Give them the wisdom to know and the determination to do your will.

**People: Give them your vision for our community, that together we can serve you by the leading of your Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Almighty God, Lord of the harvest, we ask your blessing upon all

missionaries, especially our together in mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry. Guard and protect them and fill them with zeal for sharing the gospel.

**People: Compassionate Lord, bless the work of the Elizabeth Ministry as they care for and serve women in times of joy and sorrow. We rejoice with the Conrad family, as their adopted grandchild, Charlie James, was born to be raised by their daughter Ann and her husband Mark.**

Pastor: Father, we know that you are not slow in keeping your promises. Thank you for being patient with us.

**People: When we stray from your commands — when we sin against you in any way — send your Holy Spirit to convict us of our sin and draw us back to you in repentant faith.**

Pastor: God of grace and power, you sent Jesus to break the power of sin, death and the devil. We ask you to intervene in the lives of those who remain enslaved to drugs, alcohol, gambling, Internet pornography or any other kind of destructive addiction.

**People: Set the prisoners free, Lord! By the power and forgiveness of the blood shed by Jesus, renew and restore those ensnared in sin’s deceitfulness.**

Pastor: Savior, you have taught us that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, and the world as we know it will come to an end. Help each of us to live holy and godly lives as we look forward to that day.

**People: Cleanse us by your Word — purify our thoughts, our words and our actions — and thank you that, because of Jesus’ finished work for us, we can be found spotless, blameless and at peace with you on the day He returns.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, we give you thanks for all your gifts and blessing. We rejoice with Dalen and Pam who have been blessed by 35 years of marriage. Grant them joy in their life together day by day.

**People: Bless and comfort those who remember departed loved ones, especially Angie as she remembers her father, Dale.**

Pastor: Father, hear us as we pray for those who are sick, shut-in or grieving in our own congregation. Today we especially remember Lois, Virginia, Barbara, Dolores, Arline, Ken, Ginger, Robert, Gretchen, Jack, Mark, Richard, Rosalie and Sarah.

**People:** Be their comfort and their strength, O Lord. Let them know the consolation of your love.

Pastor: Lord God, you know the hearts of all people; you are familiar with even the secrets of our hearts.

**People:** Prepare our hearts for the gifts of forgiveness and strength, which you give us in your Holy Supper, that we may receive them with full confidence and joy.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commit all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

### WORDS OF OUR LORD

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People:** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI *(Sung to Tune LSB #702 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee")*

O Lamb of God, we pray: Take all our sins away— Our faith increase.

Have mercy on us all, Strengthen us when we fall,

Answer our fervent call And grant us peace.

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(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

### HYMN #346 "When All the World Was Cursed"

When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,

Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.

With true forerunner's zeal The greater One he names,

And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.

Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,  
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.  
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,  
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:

Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,  
Whose sacrifice removes The devil's dread oppression.  
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,  
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.

O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,  
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,  
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way  
Until we live with Him In His eternal day.

### HYMN #352 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many a year Stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord –  
Him of two-fold race behold – Truly came, as long foretold.

As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.

Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.

Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

**HYMN #336 “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”**

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, Once for every sinner slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of His train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him, Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, Shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore Thee, High on Thine eternal throne  
Savior, take the power and glory, Claim the kingdom as Thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for having fed us with the  
body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we  
are truly members of His Body, the Church. Brighten our days and lives, O  
Lord, and enlighten us by the working of your Holy Spirit that we may  
continue in this fellowship and do the good works which you desire us to  
do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, to whom, with you and the  
same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you  
peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**“Hosanna to the Coming Lord”**

Tune: TLH #70

Hosanna to the coming Lord! Hosanna to th’incarnate Word!  
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King Let earth, let heav’n hosanna sing.

O Savior, with protecting care Abide in this Your house of prayer,  
Where we Your parting promise claim, Assembled in Your sacred name.

O Advent King, our sins forgive; Come in our lives and hearts to live,  
And let our humble souls become A temple worthy of Your name.

Then in the last and dreadful day, When earth and heav’n shall melt away,  
Your flock, redeemed from sinful stain, Shall swell the sound of praise again.

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Preacher

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Liturgist

Pastor Harold Bender

Lectors

Jim Laux, Jodi Drew, Laurel Privatt

Acolytes

Riley Hoeg, Abbey Hoffman, Cassy Barry

Organist

Roger Gotttschalk

Bell Director

Matt Compton

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller

**Advent Mid Week Worship**

December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am & 6:00 pm

“Gazing Upon the Perfect Tree”

Advent Meal: Twice baked Potato Casserole, Green Beans,  
Fresh Carrots, Brownies, Kid’s hotdog meal.