



W H E N T H E
L O R D
C O M E S N E A R

Advent Two

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church

W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI | 262-781-3520 | office@pilgrimcares.org

WHEN THE LORD COMES NEAR, HE HUMBLER HIS PEOPLE

People tend to feel a lot of pressure this time of year. We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to meet the Lord: only repentance. You see, Jesus is not someone we need to impress with our good works. Indeed, repentance is the opposite of work. Repentance is the humble admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by him.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher

Presiding Minister

Organist

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof

David Porth

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Service of Word and Sacrament, 1993 Northwestern Publishing House All rights reserved. Used by permission. All rights reserved. One License A-710942

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

OPENING HYMN

There's A Voice in the Wilderness Crying | 13(1-3)

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places
Where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Christians, you bring good tidings;
Get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
The coming of their King.
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish;
Like grass their works decay.
The pow'r and pomp of nations
Shall pass like a dream away;

3 But the Word of our God is eternal;
The arm of the Lord is strong.
He stands in the midst of the nations,
And he shall right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
The lambs shall gently hold,
To pastures of peace shall lead them,
And bring them safe to his fold.

Please stand

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Advent Two

M: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

M: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

SUNG RESPONSE

We Light the Advent Candle

We light the Advent candle And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior Who wins for us God's favor.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.



Please be seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-7b

Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord humbles his people, purifying our hearts so that we might stand on the Last Day.

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies. ² But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers' bleach! ³ He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness. ⁴ Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago. ⁵ I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies. ⁶ Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. ⁷ Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies. You say, "In what way should we return?"

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 66A

Sung to CW 240

O shout with great joy unto God, all the earth!
And sing out the praise of His glory and worth!
Proclaim unto God, "O how awesome Your deeds!
Your pow'r makes Your enemies cringe before Thee!

"All those on the earth bow down, praising Your name.
They sing praise to You, they sing unto Your name."
Come, see all the works that the Lord God has done;
How awesome His works which for man He has done!

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

Producing love and humility within us is God's work. He began his good work at our baptism and will carry that work to completion.

I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, ⁵ because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. ⁸ Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. ¹⁰ This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4,6

Spoken in unison

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In grace, God sent his messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare people to meet the Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. ³ He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And everyone^[a] will see the salvation of God."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated

HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | 16(1-5)

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

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

SERMON

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
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,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

OFFERING

The Offering Plate is available on the shelf as you leave. If you wish to give an electronic offering, we have provided a QR code at the end of this worship folder. You can also go to pilgrimcares.org/giving to give your offerings online.

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

The Sacrament

The Bible teaches that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ, and with one another, as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. With that in mind, we invite all members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to come forward. If you wish to partake of the Supper with us in the future, please speak to Pastor after the service. He would be happy to help you take that step.

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

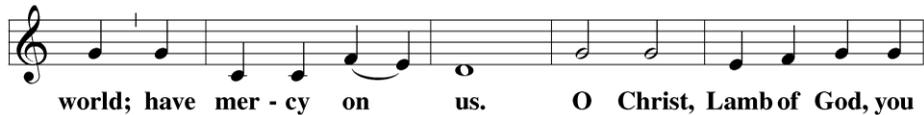
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Comfort, Comfort All My People | 11(1-4)

1 "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."

2 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.

3 John the Baptist's voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.
Oh, 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 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.

Thanksgiving

Please stand



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joyce and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with

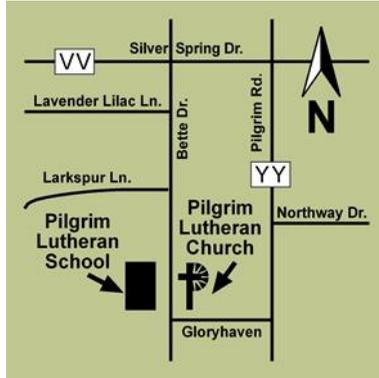


shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord Heavenly Father, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world. That the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.



www.pilgrimcares.org

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof
608.548.0670
cvanderhoof@pilgrimcares.org

Visitation Pastor
Pastor William Kirchner
414.379.0425
wckirch@yahoo.com

Principal Kevin Klug
262.781.3520
kklug@pilgrimcares.org

Early Childhood Director
Bethany Anderson
262.781.8305
banderson@pilgrimcares.org