



ADVENT 2020

hope

AND HEALING

December 9, 2020 4:30 & 7:00 pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church Seymour, IN

Welcome to Worship! We continue this evening in our midweek services with our series on “Advent: A Time for Hope and Healing.” Tonight we focus on “Comfort and Healing” as our Advent King, Jesus Christ, comes to lift us up and establish us in His grace and forgiveness. Our King brings healing comfort for our despair, pride, and guilt!

Hearing devices are available from an usher.

+++ The Service of Prayer and Preaching, Page 260 +++
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THE PRELUDE: “When All the World Was Cursed” – M.D. Costello

THE HYMN: “Arise, O Christian People”

Hymn 354

- 1 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.
- 2 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 valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.
- 3 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.
- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I’ll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.

THE OPENING VERSES: page 260 (Advent verse)

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;
C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
L Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
C **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**
L Prepare the way of the Lord.
C **Make His paths straight.**
L Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.
C **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**
L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

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

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "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. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on 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 news; lift up your voice with strength O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

+++ **THE ANTHEM: 4:30 - "Jesus Loves Me"**

7:00 - "Come, Dear Christ, Your World Awaits" - B Duckworth

THE EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

L: This the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT, page 263

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

L He shall reign as king and deal wisely , and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

THE CATECHISM: THE APOSTLES' CREED, page 264

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

THE HYMN: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Hymn 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.

THE SERMON: "Brought to our Knees, Then to Our Feet"

THE PRAYERS, page 265

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER, page 266

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

THE BLESSING, page 267

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Hymn 343

- 1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:
- ref Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!
- 2 God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! Refrain
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: Refrain

THE POSTLUDE: "Lo, He Comes on Clouds Descending" - K Osterland

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Preacher: Pastor Bloch **Liturgists:** Vicar Fredstrom and Pastor Rodriguez

Lector: Pastor Blumenberg **Organist:** Mr. Paul Scheiderer

Special Music: 4:30: 5/6th Handbells 7:00: Adult Choir

Advent 2 "Brought to Our Knees, then to Our Feet" Wednesday, December 9

4:30 pm - Audio: Jay Hubbard

7:00 pm - Acolyte: Marcus Brooks **Ushers:** Max Whitsett, John Bowen, Marcus Brooks, Joe Brooks, Michael Brooks, Mike Stuckwisch, Jeff Schneider **Counting:** Mark Nichols, Matt Lambert, Joe Bullard, Kevin Lister, John Thomas, Kyle Gentry **Audio:** Kevin Foster

Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at www.immanuelseymour.com.

Wednesday Advent Series: "Advent – A Time of Hope and Healing" is the special Advent worship series for our Wednesday evening services at 4:30 and 7:00 p.m. It seeks to apply words from Isaiah that sound like they were written for this very time.

- Dec. 16: "Good News that is More than a Promise"
- Dec. 23: "God's Global Plan for Justice"

Advent Activities Between Services:

"**Hope and Healing Activity Kits**" for the children to come pick up in between the 4:30 and 7 pm Midweek service. This will be a "grab and go" art activity for home. The kit is designed to be fun, full of learning, and give families with children the opportunity to share with each other, and also with a friend or neighbor, the love of Christ during the season of Advent.

Grab and Go Cookies! Immanuel's youth will be serving delicious cookies from 5-6:30 PM every Wednesday in Advent (December 2, 9, & 16, 2020). Just swing through the Fellowship Hall, pick up your individually wrapped cookies and a cup of your favorite beverage (fruit punch, coffee, milk). Free will offerings will also be accepted to help support the youth ministry of Immanuel.