



THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN  
ARE ORDERED BY THE  
**L O R D:**  
AND HE DELIGHTETH  
IN HIS WAY.

PSALM 37:23

## Second Sunday in Advent

December 6<sup>th</sup> / December 7<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church*

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### Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch  
(715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956)

### There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

(Hymn 13)

- 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.

**Prayer of the Day:**

*P: Let us pray*

*Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

*C: Amen*

*Please be seated*

**Old Testament Lesson**

***Where Do You Find Relief?***

*God told Isaiah to comfort his people. Wouldn't be nice to get a little of that? There is always an overabundance of suffering and pain. Comfort seems to be in short supply.*

*The very first thing God told Isaiah to do was to speak to the heart of Jerusalem and tell her about forgiveness. Forgiveness is a powerful thing. Forgiveness from God is life-changing. It lifts an eternal weight off our conscience and breathes life into a weary soul. Never underestimate the power of forgiveness.*

*Then he told Isaiah to remind people not to put their hope in power or the plans of people. Human beings don't have the depth or the insight to solve problems older and deeper than we are. Look to God for salvation and solutions.*

*Finally, he tells us that God is here! He is with us in power. He is with us in love. He cares for us as our Good Shepherd. We are not alone. Our God is with us now and forever in love and forgiveness and welcome. What a comforting thought. What a comforting reality!*

**Isaiah 40:1-11 (EHV)**

<sup>40</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak 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.

<sup>3</sup> A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every 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.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all flesh together will see it.

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Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

<sup>6</sup> A 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.

<sup>7</sup> Grass withers, flowers fade,

when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> Grass withers, flowers fade,

but the Word of our God endures forever.

<sup>9</sup> Get 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!"

<sup>10</sup> Look, 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.

<sup>11</sup> Like 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.

## ***Epistle Lesson***

### ***Epic Patience***

*It's been 2000 years since Jesus said he was coming back. What's taking him so long? God is not slow; we are. God is patient. He gave the people of Noah's day 120 years. He's given us 2000!*

*God loves people so much that he waits for us. He waits for Christians to share the message. He waits for people to hear. He works in hearts that are unyielding and cold. He keeps working and he keeps waiting because he doesn't want anyone to die eternally in the fires of hell.*

*When Jesus comes again, he's coming in blazing glory and final judgment. Everything in creation will be destroyed. He wants to rescue as many people as possible before that happens. He will make a brand-new home for everyone who believes. He wants to bring home everybody appointed for salvation.*

*So, knowing that, what should we do? God has chosen us to bring the saving message of the Gospel to the world. He's done the hard part. We just have to let people know. Jesus is coming back. Let's bring as many people home as we can.*

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## 2 Peter 3:8-15a (EHV)

<sup>8</sup> But 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. <sup>9</sup> The 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.

<sup>10</sup> But 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. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be, living in holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> as 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. <sup>13</sup> But according to his promise we look forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, dear friends, as you look forward to these things, make every effort to be found in peace, spotless and blameless in his sight. <sup>15</sup> Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as also our dear brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom that was given to him.

### *The Apostles' Creed*

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.

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## Comfort, Comfort All My People

(Hymn 11)

- 1 Lift up your heads, you mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation, he will bring;  
Therefore, rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise  
Your joyful songs of praise.
  
- 2 The King is born in poverty,  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe he brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
Your grateful hymns of praise.
  
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is he  
Who comes to set his people free.  
To God the Spirit raise  
Your happy shouts of praise.

### ***Gospel Lesson/Sermon Text:***

#### ***Tell Someone***

*Jesus is coming! Out of sheer grace, he sends people to prepare us. The first time Jesus came, God sent John. John baptized and preached to change hearts and prepare people for the Messiah. John pointed consistently and persistently to Jesus. People needed Jesus to save them.*

*That was 2000 years ago. Now God sends us. We still baptize and preach to change hearts and prepare people for Judgment Day. We still point consistently and persistently to Jesus. We still need Jesus to save us. He is coming soon. Tell somebody.*

## **Mark 1:1-8(EHV)**

**1** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **2** This is how it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

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

**3** A voice of one calling out in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make his paths straight.”

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

**5** The 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. **6** John was clothed in camel’s hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He preached, “One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! **8** I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

### **Prayers for Our family and Friends**

**The Beaumont Family, Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Ardice Cerney, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Jean Harper, Dorothy Johnson, Sally Kamps, Rose Karr, Noah & Kristin Olson, Lisa Schmitt, Marjorie Urbaniak, and Jesse Zach**

### **Prayers for those called to protect**

**Military: Jesse Adams** (Sue Connor’s son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow’s godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson’s grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht’s great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen’s cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston’s son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth’s son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker’s husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela’s grandson), and **Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush’s nephew).

**Firefighter: Steve Campbell.**

**Police: Greg Haemker, Raymond Cashaw** (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) and **David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

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**The Lord's Prayer:**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

**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: Amen**

**Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising**

**( Hymn 42 vv.1-2)**

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing his love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.
  
2. See how God, for us providing,  
Gave his Son and life abiding;  
He our weary steps is guiding  
From earth's woe to heav'nly joy.

**TRINITY'S CORE MISSION**

**Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.**

**John 8:12** - *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

**Matthew 5:16** - *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*