

St Peter Lutheran Church

Order of Worship

The Third Sunday in Advent, December 15, 2024

Welcome

Isaiah 40:6-8 "Hark the Glad Sound"

THEME OF THE DAY: Isaiah anticipates that the people in Babylonian exile will miss his Gospel message in Isaiah 40:1–5. He signals his disappointment through the sudden shift from the divine glory, witnessed by all flesh (Isaiah 40:5), to the pathos of human transience in Isaiah 40:6–8a where "grass" is used to describe people four times. The only sure source of joy and life is God's Word which endures forever (Isaiah 40:8b).

(Please stand, as you are able)

Invocation

P In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

C Amen.

P Prepare ye the way of the Lord

C Hallelujah

P Make His path's straight,

C Oh come, let us worship Him!

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C And to the Holy Spirit.

P As it was in the beginning,

C Is now and will be forever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: We come with great expectation to await the coming Messiah.

C: All creation waits with great longing for the Son of God.

P: As John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord,"

C: We are here to prepare a place in our hearts for His coming.

P: In preparation, we confess together:

C: God of Advent, we confess that our excitement about this season often has very little to do with Jesus. We surround ourselves with the ornaments of the season, yet we feel alone and lifeless. We confess that we find more pleasure in receiving than giving. Forgive the sins of our thoughts, words, and actions. In this Advent season, empower us to know that forgiveness is possible only because of the Christ Child, Jesus our Lord.

(silence for personal confession and reflection)

P: People of God, today we have good news to share with each other. Christ came into the world to save us from sin and to restore us to a right relationship with God and with each other. God came in human flesh to be one of us—to know our pain and to live among us. God comes to us in the baby Jesus, born to give life and hope to all of us—God’s children. You are forgiven and you are set free!

C: **Amen! Come quickly, Lord Jesus, Amen!**

Opening Hymn LSB 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!”

2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv’n;

4 So, when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

△ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

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Salutation and Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen** *(Please be seated)*

Old Testament Reading, Isaiah 40:6-8

A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said,^[a] “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty^[b] is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the Lord blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

L This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Epistle Reading, 2 Corinthians 1:15-24

Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. ¹⁶ I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷ Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.^[a]

²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

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

(Please stand as you are able)

The Holy Gospel, Matthew 24:32-42

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew **C** Glory to You, O Lord

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord **C** Praise to You, O Christ!

(Please be seated)

Sermon

(Please stand, as you are able)

Sermon Hymn LSB 349 Hark the Glad Sound

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song. | 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield. |
| 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor. | 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name. |

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Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers

P Heavenly Father, "grass withers and flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever"
(Isaiah 40:8)

C "Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path." (Psalm 119:105)

P "Lord, to whom shall we go, you have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

C "Your Word is firmly fixed in the heavens." (Psalm 119:89)

P "When your words came I ate them; they were the joy and delight of my heart." (Jeremiah
15:16).

C "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth." (Psalm
119:103)

P "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17)

C "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." (Psalm
119:11)

(Additional prayers)

P: "Lord, only say the Word and we will be healed." (Matthew 8:8)

C "I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word." (Psalm 119:16)

A "Grass withers and flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever!" (Isaiah 40:8)

P: In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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.

Peace of the Lord (Please greet the people around you with God's peace)

Offering

Preface

P The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. **C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

The Word of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

**☪ 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Communion Distribution *(Please be seated)*

St Peter's Communion Statement

The Lord's Supper is a special gift given by Jesus Christ to all baptized believers in the community of faith. In preparing for the Lord's Supper, we are to reflect upon the following questions:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness?
2. Do I believe that, within this Sacrament, the bread and wine are Christ's true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins?
3. Do I promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life?
4. Do I confess and believe the same doctrines of faith as the church body with which I am about to commune?

If you are having difficulty in answering "yes" to any of the above questions, please follow the guide of Scripture and refrain from taking communion today. Our Pastor would be glad to visit with you after the service to answer any questions you may have about our Communion practice.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please signal to Pastor by holding up your index finger in front of you.

Non-alcoholic white grape juice is available in the center of the tray, for those with alcohol sensitivities

Gather Us In –Marty Haugen

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our
dreamings Brought here to you in the light
of this day Gather us in the lost and forsaken
Gather us in the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name

2. We are the young our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in the rich and the haughty
Gather us in the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song

3. Here we all take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your
daughters Call us anew to be salt for the
earth Give us to drink the wine of
compassion Give us to eat the bread that is
you Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are
true

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven, light-years away
here in this place the new light is
shining Now is the Kingdom, and now is
the day Gather us in and hold us
forever Gather us in and make us your
own Gather us in all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1 Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's
Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That
the Lord chose such a birth.
- 5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.
- 7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.
- △ 8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

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Hymn Of Heaven

Verse 1

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven
Where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets
To look upon the one who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity

Verse 2

And ev'ry prayer we prayed in desperation
The songs of faith
We sang through doubt and fear
In the end we'll see that it was worth it
When He returns to wipe away our tears

Chorus 2

**So let it be today We shout the hymn of Heaven
With angels and the Saints We raise a mighty roar
Glory to our God Who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy holy is the Lord Holy holy is the Lord Holy holy is the Lord**

Bill Johnson, Brian Johnson, Chris Davenport, Phil Wickham CCLI Song #7168994 © Brian

Chorus 1

**There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord**

Verse 3

And on that day we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice a thousand generations
Sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Forever He shall reign

“Draw Me Close”

Draw me close to You, never let me go
I lay it all down again
To hear You say that I’m Your friend
You are my desire; no one else will do,
'Cause nothing else could take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace.
Help me find the way; bring me back to You.

Chorus **Jesus, You’re all I want.**
You’re all I’ve ever needed.
You’re all I want.
Help me know You are near.

Draw me close to You, never let me go
I lay it all down again
To hear You say that I’m Your friend.
You are my desire; no one else will do,
'Cause nothing else could take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace.
Help me find the way; bring me back to You.

Chorus 2X

(Tag) Help me know You are here.

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643 Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

- 1 Sent forth by God’s blessing,
 Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
 The Supper is ended.
 O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
 The seed of His teaching,
 Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
 His grace did invite us,
 His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

- 2 With praise and thanksgiving
 To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.
 Our faith ever sharing,
 In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.

With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

P 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.

C Amen.

P Go in peace! **C Serve the Lord**

P Let us bless the Lord **C Thanks be to God**

Closing Song “Everlasting God”

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Our God You reign forever

Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus: You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Repeat All

Instrumental

Chorus 2X

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(Please be seated)

Announcements



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