

Second Sunday
OF ADVENT

December 10th, 2023
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Henrik Sonntag, Pastor
120 N. Easton Road
Glenside, PA
215-884-3005

GATHERING

THE PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "What Child is This" (Greensleeves)

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. OR**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

No. 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Wie Soll ich Dich Empfangen

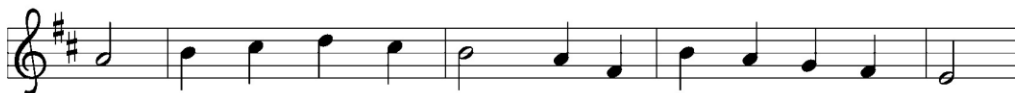
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite

Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you**

KYRIE

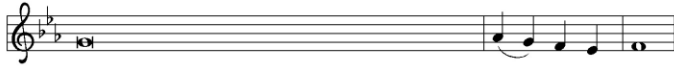
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In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



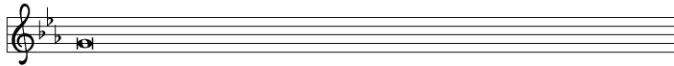
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



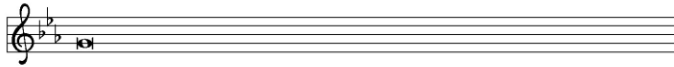
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Light A Candle
for the Messiah



THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH No. 240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Tif In Veldele

First and Second Stanzas Only

Please be seated.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every 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.

⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

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

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 "Here is your God!"
¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,
 and carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

8:00 *The Psalm will be read responsively with the assembly reading the verses in bold.*

10:30 *The antiphon is introduced by the choir, then is sung by all. The assembly sings the verses in **bold print**.*

Righteousness shall pre -
 pare a path - way for God.

Psalm 85:13

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹You have been gracious to your | land, O Lord;
 you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
 and blotted out | all their sins.**

⁸| will listen to what the Lord | God is saying;
 for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn
 their | hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
 that your glory may dwell | in our land. R**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the Lord
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R**

THE SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Presentation of *My Perfect Stranger*

by Bob Chilcott

MY PERFECT STRANGER

text: Kevin Crossley-Holland (b. 1941) / music: Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Mary – Misty Wagner
Innkeeper – Eric Mitchell
Shepherds – all Tenors and Basses
Star – all Sopranos and Altos
Magi – Eric Shiffer, Benjamin Sonntag, Cyndee Folk
Herod – all Tenors and Basses
Angel Voice – Celia O’Leary, AnnaLisa Mariani
Baby – all Singers
Piano – James Batt
Harp – Candace Lark

Prologue

This is what happens. This is how
it begins.

Another census is underway,
another round of taxes in Judea:
each man with his wife in his own
city,
each of their children, and each
baby,
and at no worse time for a queasy
virgin and her old husband,

a carpenter.

Rough tracks through rocky hills,
sand and shimmer on the Roman
road,
they’re making slow progress
from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
Mary’s son is leaping in her
womb,
how eager he is to be born, to be
born.

The city's a hellhole.
Seething and shouting.
Stinking passages.
Beggars,
tricksters,
refugees.

My Perfect Stranger

Mary

Quick and slow.
Tight as a drum.
I'm round as lady moon calling to
me.
My baby will be born tonight.

Innkeeper

Sorry, mate.
Not a single pallet.
Tell you what!
Your Mary can share a stall with
my old ox.

Shepherds

This flock of skylights skipping,
and sky-voices singing,
'The lamb of God will be born in a
manger.'

Star

I am tonight's brightest star,
Many-coloured blossoming over
Bethlehem.
Follow me, follow me.

Magi

In the East we saw you,
rising, a golden mustard flower,

a scarlet sky anemone.
We will follow you, follow you.

Herod

Who? A king? Born in a stable?
I'll rip him from his mother.
I'll slaughter all the sucklings.

Mary

Little lamb.
My perfect stranger.
I'll wrap you with the swaddling
bands and lay you in a manger.
Little Lamb.

Shepherds

Earth's bones rattling.
The sky swaying.
A heck of a journey!
Here's a fleece, Jesus,
this palm fan,
a round of cheese.

Innkeeper

Warden of figs and wild honey.
Kingpin of the lemon groves.
Will you feed and shelter us?

Magi

Our gifts are gold
and frankincense,
bitter myrrh.
Beware now!
Escape from murd'rous King
Herod.

Angels

Listen!

We're your secret voices.
With our songs, with our light
we will guide you through the
night.

Baby

I am the baby who will cradle the
world.
In your heart hold me.
I will love you,
and never, never leave you.

Epilogue

We aim and stray,
we want, we dream.
How can our paths ever be
straight?

In light there is always darkness
but in darkness always speck and
star and sheen.

Many visions, signs and
prophecies
meet in this place and in this
moment,
many ardent prayers guide us
on this wonder-journey.

As in mazy moonlight
to a pool, unblinking,
face to face with who we are,
and may become.

In this story there are parts for
each of us,

God's creatures,
parts for ev'ryone.

Which role will you choose?

What have you to say and sing?

Dear dust and eternal

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

No. 255 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Ascension

There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please kneel or sit for the prayers: This week's response is: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal (*especially*). Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political

parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort your people, especially the loved ones of Karen Delaney and Mary Scarlett with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season (*especially*). Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past, especially Karen Delaney and Mary Scarlett and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

All greet each other with Christ's gesture of peace saying "Peace be with you."

Please be seated

MEAL

OFFERING *Meditation on the Coventry Carol*

W. S. Lloyd Webber

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY No. 692 We Are an Offering

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Concludes with ... **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.", "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.", "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.", and "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music features simple, rhythmic patterns with some phrasing slurs.

THE SANCTUS

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of", "pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -", "san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the", and "name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a more complex and rhythmic melody with some phrasing slurs.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

“Lamb of God”

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Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

No. 256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Freu Dich Sehr

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Please stand as you are able.

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

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Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Concludes with **Amen**.

SENDING

THE BLESSING

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THE SENDING HYMN

No. 249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Puer Nobis

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Please be seated for the announcements.

PARISH NOTICES AND JOYS

SENDING: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on "What Child is This" (Greensleeves)

Robert Lind