

Early Service Order of Worship

Divine Service Setting Two

As We Gather During the month of December, we find ourselves preparing for many things. The foremost preparation during this season of Advent is for the celebration of our Savior's birth. Today, in Holy Scripture, we are reminded of another time of preparation—the ministry of Saint John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. On this Second Sunday in Advent, we give thanks for the work of John the Baptist, the one who would raise valleys, level mountains, and make straight the way for the Messiah.

Prelude Variations on *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*
Flor Peeters, Paul Manz

Confession and Absolution

Please stand as you are able

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Invocation *Matthew 28:19b; 18:20 LSB 167*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Advent Candle-Lighting

A As we light the second candle on our Advent wreath, we remember the One who comes—Jesus, the light of the world.

(The candles are lit)

A He came as a baby in a manger.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A He came to be our Savior.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A He comes to us each day in the promise of His presence.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A He will come again.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

Opening Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9 LSB 167

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Please kneel as you are able

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23] LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13, antiphon: Luke 3:4b

- P** The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."
- C** **Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!**
- P** O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

C I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

P Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

C But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.

P Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!

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.

P The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Kyrie

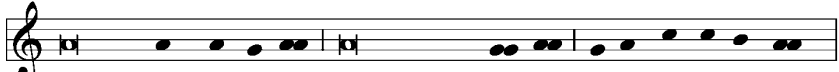
Mark 10:47 LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



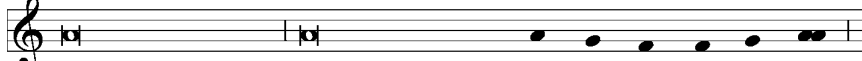
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



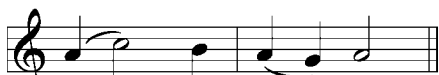
C Lord, have mer - cy.



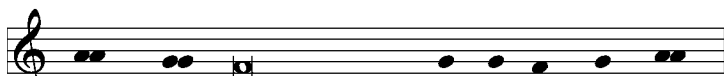
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 172 2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

Old Testament

Malachi 3:1-7b

A The Old Testament Lesson for the Second Sunday in Advent is from Malachi, chapter three.

¹"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Sing, All Ye Nations to the Lord

Psalm 66:1-12

Tune: LSB 528

**Sing, all ye nations to the Lord,
Sing with a joyful noise;
With melody of sound record
His honors and your joys.**

**Say to the One who formed the sky,
"How wonderful art thou!
Sinners before thy presence fly,
Or at thy feet they bow."**

**He made the ebbing waters dry,
While Israel passed the flood;
There did the church begin their joy,
And triumph in their God.**

**O bless our God, and never cease,
Ye saints, fulfill his praise;
He keeps our life, maintains our peace,
And guides our doubtful ways.**

**Lord, thou hast prov'd our suff'ring souls
To make thy graces shine;
So silver bears the burning coals,
The metal to refine.**

**Through wat'ry deeps and fiery ways
We go at thy command;
Led to possess the promised place
By thine unerring hand.**

Text and Tune: Public domain

Epistle

Philippians 1:2–11

A The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter one.

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68 LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

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

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* *LSB 344*

Please be seated

Sermon

Silence for reflection

Please stand as you are able

Apostles' Creed *LSB 175*

☩ 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.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church *1 Timothy 2:1-4 LSB 175*

After each petition:

ℙ Lord, in Your mercy.

☩ Hear our prayer.

ℙ Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

☩ Amen.

Offering

During this time, please fill out and pass the blue Friendship Register. Please indicate whether you are a member or visitor. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join the family of believers here at Christ the Redeemer.

Voluntary

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

Please stand as you are able

Offertory Hymn

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 LSB 162

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.**

Collect

P Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26 LSB 183

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.**

Closing Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347

Announcements

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Prepare the Royal Highway

Charles Ore
(b. 1936)

Acknowledgments

Preacher & Liturgist: Rev. Scott Burmeister

Director of Christian Education: Suzanne Watt; Director of Music: Jacob
Drengler

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Music Notes for December 8, 2024 – Second Sunday in Advent

The Prelude for the Second Sunday in Advent is a pair of settings of the Closing Hymn, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" (LSB 347). The first arrangement, written by the Belgian organist Flor Peeters (1903-1986), is a straightforward chorale-like setting that highlights the warm foundation stops of the organ. The second setting, written by Peeters' student Paul Manz (1919-2009), opens with a delicate duet between the flute stops of the organ. This peaceful opening figure recurs several times throughout the work, interspersed with phrases of the hymn tune presented simply on a single 8' flute stop.

The Voluntary is an improvisation on the Hymn of the Day, "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (LSB 344) by Paul Manz. This piece, which alternates between richly harmonized statements of the hymn tune and a sprightly duet for flute stops, has a lilting, pastoral quality.

The Communion Voluntary is a buoyant prelude on the Opening Hymn, "Prepare the Royal Highway" (LSB 343), by American composer and organist Wilbur Held (1914-2015). Dr. Held, an accomplished church musician and composer who served on the faculty of Ohio State University for over three decades, composed exquisitely crafted yet technically accessible music that is eminently suited to the needs of the parish organist.

The Postlude is an energetic arrangement of "Prepare the Royal Highway" by American composer Charles Ore (b. 1936). Dr. Ore is Emeritus Professor of Music at Concordia University Nebraska and maintains an active career as a church musician as organist of First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.