**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2020**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Lighting of the advent wreath**

**Second Sunday of Advent: – Peace**

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ. Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace. God has a peaceful dream for the world, and we dream it too. We dream of peaceful world full of wolves and leopards and lions eating and sleeping and dancing with lambs, kids, and calves. We dream of a peaceful world where nations come together, where war is a memory, and we eat at one table. We light this candle in Peace.

**On this day, we remember the Lord of All who brings peace surpassing all understanding.**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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. 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.**

**Gathering Song“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” ELW 254**



**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

**First Reading**    **Isaiah 40:1-11**

A reading from Isaiah.

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.**

**Psalm Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

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.**  
 8I 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.**   
 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.**

**Second Reading**  **2 Peter 3:8-15a**

A reading from 2 Peter.

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; 15aand regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** **Mark 1:1-8**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**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.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” ELW 256**



**cREED**

**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**Prayers of Intercession**

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. We pray especially for Christ Lutheran Church and Rev. Justin Walker. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work (especially Nicholas of Myra). Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you. You may receive your communion elements.

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement

grant you to live in harmony with one another,

in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Soon and Very Soon” ELW 439**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED TODAY:**

**Presider: Rebecca Ebb-Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Paul Meade**

**Trustee: Tom Krikke**

**Offering counters: Jerry Engle and Brenda Bite**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* + In person services are suspended through at least Dec. 6. Drive in services will be held, weather permitting. Sermon will continue to be posted on Facebook live.
  + The ZLCW wishes to thank everyone who gave donations for our Thankoffering service.  We collected $610.00 and the funds have been sent to the Women of the ELCA for their many programs.  If anyone wishes to receive a tax donation receipt please contact me at 269-367-9191 and I will mail you one.  Other years I have put them in the mailboxes at church.  Thank you, Carol Engle, ZLCW treasurer
  + Lakewood Community Council Christmas Basket Project: Mary Smith received an Action Grant from Thrivent Financial to purchase the children's gifts and a limited number of hats, socks and mittens for children.  You may contribute any size hats, warm winter mittens/gloves, and socks. Also needed is cash to purchase meat certificates and food. You may add cash to your offering envelope and indicate that it is designated for the Lakewood Community Council, then the office will get it to. There will be a box in the west entrance to put your gifts in. Especially needed are water-resistant mittens/gloves. We will take Zion's contributions to Central United Methodist Church, Wednesday, December 9 before noon. Please be sure to read the article in the Lakewood News by Kay Barcroft.  It has more, and updated information.
  + Counters Needed. We are in need of a few more people to serve as volunteer counters for Sunday Offerings.  If you are willing to serve in this role, please let Martha or Karen know. Thank you.