



# December 6, 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

Joint Worship to be the church together.

Voices from Augustana & First Lutheran

Worship broadcast via radio and YouTube. YouTube links found on:

[www.augustanalutheran.org](http://www.augustanalutheran.org) [www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org)

**PRELUDE**

Meghan Stringer

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - PREPARATION**

**READER 1** - A voice cries out in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**READER 2** - Every 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.

**READER 1** - Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

**READER 2** - For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**HYMN #254 v.1,2**



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

JEFFERSON  
87 87 D

**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

p. 184 Congregation sings the refrain

*Refrain* S 184

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, One God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen!**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 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**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p.187

*Refrain* S 187

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,  
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
*Final refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the  
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray: 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.**

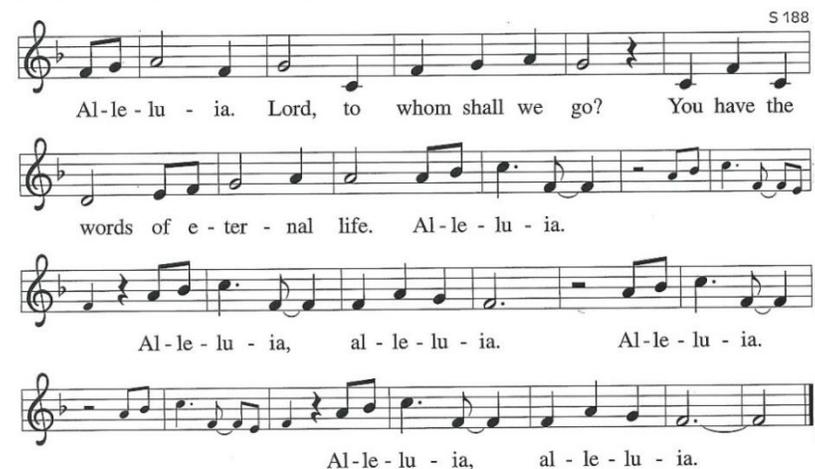
### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

VICKI HANNEMAN

### READING: Psalm 85:1-2; 8-15

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah; "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness; 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He 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. I 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

REV. DAVID STROM

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

HYMN #249, v.1,5

On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent  
that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther  
for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

PUER NOBIS  
LM

## APOSTLES' 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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need, as we respond with the phrase, "Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great.**"

*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. 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. 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!**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

#### **WORSHIP & PRAISE #41**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

### **COMMUNION**

This is the Lord's Table, all are welcome here. In your home is an ordinary table now set apart and holy, Christ is present there. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper, wherever you may be.

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

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

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, throughout the generations you have come to be present with us at our tables, turning ordinary meals into holy moments for us to experience your grace in tangible ways. In an upper room

of a guest house 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.

The body of Christ given for you. (*all share in eating the bread*)

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.

The blood of Christ shed for you. (*all sharing in drinking of the cup*)

Together as the body of Christ, trusting that the distance that separates us is bridged by the Holy Spirit who makes us one, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

### *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

HYMN #256 v. 1

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God. Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load. To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them! Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.  
Music: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551

FREU DICH SEHR  
87 87 77 88

## 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.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

*Fling Wide the Door*

**HYMN #259, v.1,4**

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version

MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR  
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**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

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## FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 2020

Church phone number 739-3348 and email [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org)

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Bud & Linda Mellon in memory of loved ones.

**The radio broadcast** is sponsored by Diane Prischmann and Leslie Flugstad in memory of Inga.

**Please keep the family and friends** of Robert Gaabo, Judith (Judy) Toso, and Judy Stock in your prayers. Robert passed away on November 24th, Judy Toso passed away on November 27th, and Judy Stock passed away on November 28th.

**In-person worship is paused through December 18. Worship continues to be with Augustana and will be broadcast on the radio and YouTube.**

### Coming up this week:

- Tuesday, December 8 at 6:00 pm Council via Zoom.
- Wednesday, December 9, FLY K-6 watch for info.
- Wednesday, December 9, Advent Reflections available on YouTube.
- Friday, December 11 at 4:30 pm FLY 7-9 On-line Game Night and at 5:30 pm FLY 10-12 On-line Game Night.

**Advent Reflections, with Pastor Gretchen Enoch, Rev. David Strom, & Vicar Lynn Melchior** will be available any Wednesday during Advent on the First Lutheran website: [www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org). A link to the website will also be sent out via Constant Contact.

**First Lutheran Talent Show** will be streamed on YouTube on Sunday, December 27 at 9:30 am. Photos, videos, written memories, songs, readings, etc. can be submitted to Kristy before December 13th to be included in the video. If you have questions, contact Kristy at [kristy@flcff.org](mailto:kristy@flcff.org) or 218 531-9544. Join us as we share the Christmas spirit and the miracle of Jesus' birth with the community as a united church. **Deadline for submissions for the Talent Show is December 13th!**

**Christmas Food Baskets** – If you or someone you know could benefit from a Food Basket, contact the church before December 14th.

**How Can I Help? If you have items to drop off, please call the church office and we will open the door for you. 739-3348.**

- **Giving Trees** – financial contributions for the Giving Trees can be sent to the church office, specifying it is for the Giving Tree. The funds will be used to shop for gifts for *A Place to Belong* and *Someplace Safe*.
- **The Riverside Lions collect eyeglasses** for reuse. There is a collection box in the Narthex for your convenience.
- **Mitten Ministry** – we are collecting new mittens, hats, and scarves (purchased or homemade) to help those in need of winter wear. Please leave your donation in the basket in the Narthex.
- **Change to Make a Change** – There is a large plastic bottle in the Narthex, and we invite you to put your spare change in the bottle. The money collected will go to help feed the hungry – 75% locally and 25% worldwide.
- **Salvation Army** has several opportunities to help: Bell Ringers needed (call 739-9692 for details); Christmas Toy Shop (Angel Tree) collection boxes will be located at Fleet Farm & Walmart.
- **Green Living is promoted by Lion Clubs International.** There is a recycling program for clean plastic bags & wraps. There is a receptacle in the narthex for you to place your surplus clean bags & wraps. **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** frozen veggie bags, chip bags, salad bags, waxy/coated bags. Thanks, from the Riverside Lions, Fergus Falls.

**Productive Alternatives** has positions available for Job Coach. If you enjoy working with the public with flexible hours and providing support to individuals with varying abilities, contact Julie or Stacy at 218 998-5630.

**Meals by Wheels Board of Directors** is looking for additional people to join their board. The board meets four times a year. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members from First Lutheran: Joan Anderson 218-731-7664 or Dolores Simdorn 218-770-5530.

**Don't Forget!** Offerings need to be received by the church office before December 28 to be recorded on your 2020 Giving Statement. Thank you!

**Financial Update:** As of November 23, 2020, year-to-date revenue: \$421,766, year-to-date budget \$476,093, last year: \$414,054.