



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Larimore, ND
December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to prepare the way;

The way for Christ –

the hope of Christ, and the peace of Christ –

to enter our world, and to enter our hearts.

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

And our spirits rejoice in you.

We will praise you as long as we live.

We will sing praises to you our whole life long.

We will not trust in the power of this world,

But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth.

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God

As we worship you in this place. AMEN

*SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world...Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.’” (*John 8:12*)

Leader: What does the second candle symbolize?

All: The second candle reminds us that the prophets waited for a Messiah to come and save the people.

***LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE SONG**

1.) Light the Advent candle one, Now the waiting has begun, We have started on our way, Time to think of Christmas day.

2.) Light the Advent candle two, Think of humble shepherd who Filled with wonder at the sight Of the star on Christmas night.

CHORUS: Candle, candle burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night. Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Lord, I confess my sin, You have promised to provide for all of my needs, and yet I mistrust Your promise. I know the futility of my own ambitions and my inability to do that which I desire. Today I need to recognize the sin within me, and ask that you would forgive me. Lord, in Your mercy, Forgive my sin and cleanse me so that I can be pleasing in Your sight and a minister in Your service.

God, our heavenly Creator, hears the prayers of all people and answers those prayers. Our prayer for forgiveness is answered in the person of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who died for our sin that we might have new life. The distance between God and ourselves has been brought together by love made perfect in the sacrifice of Jesus. To those who believe God's

word of truth, comes power to be the people of God. Praise God for the gift of love to us. AMEN.

***GATHERING HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW 257 vs.4&5

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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 SERMON & NOISY OFFERING

WORD

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD^[a]; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.^[b] ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶ A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” ⁹ You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem,^[c] lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. ¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.

PSALM: *Psalm 85 (read responsively)*

You, LORD, showed favor to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. ² **You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.**^[b] ³ You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger. ⁴ **Restore us again, God our Savior, and put away your displeasure**

toward us. ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations? ⁶ **Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?** ⁷ Show us your unfailing love, LORD, and grant us your salvation. ⁸ **I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly.** ⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰ **Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.** ¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. ¹² **The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.** ¹³ Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. ² I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles. ³ Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. ⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.^[a] ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.^[b] That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. ¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. ¹⁷ Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Love Divine, All Loves...” ELW 631 vs.2

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL** *Mark 1:1-8*

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,^[a] the Son of God,^[b] ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”^[c]—³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”^[d] ⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with^[e] water, but he will baptize you with^[f] the Holy Spirit.”

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *“What Child is This”* ELW 296

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN** *“In the Bleak Midwinter”* ELW 294 vs.3

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***APOSTLE'S CREED** pg. 105

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 into Hell. 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**

SING: Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord, and to us all your grace accord; true faith and love to us impart, that we may hold you in our heart.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

***SENDING HYMN** “*On Jordan's Bank...*” ELW 249 vs.1-3

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to prepare for the Messiah! **We will! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Welcome! We are glad you are with us today! If you are interested in joining our church, please contact Lori at 218-791-2671 or Julie at 701-741-5683. If you have an emergency, call Wayne Knudson (church president) at 218-779-3594 -or- Camilla Stover at 218-791-2678.

CALENDAR

Today, 12/10/2023—2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00am—Sunday School

10:00am—Worship

11:00am—Fellowship

Wednesday, 12/13/2023

1:30pm—Confirmation Class

7:00pm—Church Council Meeting

Thursday, 12/14/2023

No Quilting for the rest of the year

Next Sunday, 12/17/2023—3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00am—Sunday School

10:00am—Worship—**Sunday School Program**

11:00am—**POTLUCK & Youth Group Bake Sale**

Every day:

An opportunity to show we are Christians by our love.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mission of the Month for: Nov. – Dec.: FOOD PANTRY
- Noisy offering: Collected on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month for the mission of the month(s).
- DON'T FORGET: If you plan to bring a poinsettia to the church for Christmas Eve service (on Sunday evening), and would like to have it noted in the bulletin, please get all info. in no later than Wed., Dec. 20th, via email: oslclarimoreoffice@gmail.com -or- call/text Roberta (218-779-0359).
- NEXT SUNDAY IS THE LAST SUNDAY TO... **Remember to bring food items to put in the grocery cart in the Narthex for the Food Pantry.**
- Flowers in the sanctuary: 1) in Memory of Dave Weber & Donald Enger—given by Teresa Welder & Tina & Tracy; 2) in Honor of Robert & Camilla Stover's 40th Wedding Anniversary—given by Roberta Stover
- NEXT SUNDAY!: **Sunday School Christmas Program;** **Potluck to follow**—no need to bring desserts as the **Youth Group is doing a Bake Sale Fundraiser.**
- THANK YOU!: The WELCA wish to thank all the men who came to serve, the women that provided all the salads and goodies, and also the women who were willing to read at the X-Mas Program on Wed.
- Information and Q&A: There will be an opportunity for further discussion, and questions and answers regarding synod affiliation at Wednesday's council meeting, and the congregation is welcome to attend.

PRAYER LIST

To add or remove someone from the prayer lists, please email the church email: oslclarimoreoffice@gmail.com or call/text Roberta Stover: 218-779-0359

We pray for those in need:

Family of Sandy Kyлло Family of Brent Nesdaahl Ron Petsinger
Red Willow Bible Camp Country of Israel, and all countries in the
world—that they come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord Jerry
Madson (Sherry Voight's dad) Viola Lee Gloria Temple Lois
Jemtrud Mark Sletten Pr. Rena Peterson Donna Willoughby
(daughter of Gordon Peterson) Robbie Leake
OSLC Call Committee: *Paul Mutch, Dee Muir, Jenn Aamodt, Nancy
Smith, Wayne Knudson (non-voting members: Luke Reinhold, Sadie
Aamodt)*

Prayers for Homebound/Nursing Home Members:

LaVonne Jacobson Vicki Sweeney Dolores Mutch
Marv Jemtrud Arlene Lilja

Prayers for Armed Service Members:

Robert Norman Dillon Norman

Our Savior's Mission Statement:

"Excited by faith, we are called to **serve all**; gathered to **WORSHIP**, **inspired** to teach,
we are our Savior's!"

Serving this Sunday

Ushers: Frosty the Snowman
Reader: Confirmation Students
Prayer: Ray Johnson
Communion: N/A
Fellowship: W. Knudsons & Stovers

Serving Next Sunday (12/17/23)

Ushers: ??—Dasher and Prancer
Reader: ??—Rudolph & Hermie
Prayer: ??—Yukon Cornelius
Communion: N/A
Fellowship: POTLUCK