

Second Sunday of Advent – Feast Day of St. Nicholas Sunday, December 6, 2020

Prelude

Dieterich Buxtehude, “*Nun Komm’ der Heiden Heiland*”

Confession & Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage 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.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C: Amen

Greeting

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

C: Amen

Kyrie

ELW 257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: We praise you, Heavenly Father, for this Advent Wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the second candle on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, shepherd of your people, we thank you for your servant Nicholas, who was faithful in the care and nurture of your flock; and we pray that, following his example of his life of love and service to the neighbor, we too may grow more fully into living witnesses of your love and grace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 10:33-11:9

³³Look, the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts,
will lop the boughs with terrifying power;
the tallest trees will be cut down,
and the lofty will be brought low.

³⁴He will hack down the thickets of the forest with an ax,
and Lebanon with its majestic trees will fall.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Anthem

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" from Godspell

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-14

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God

loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

ELW 256 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

- 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.
- 2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!

Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.

- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

Apostle's Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: God of majesty, we pray for the advent of your kingdom, and your reign of peace throughout the world, when violence and war give way to healing and life and the veil of darkness is cast off your world. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: God of grace and truth, let the light of your church shine forth in the world. Illuminate your church with the grace and love of your Son and fill your people with gratitude and faith. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: Father in Heaven, we pray for the advent of your Son as glorious Lord of all; bringing light to those who dwell in darkness, joy to those in sorrow, hope to those in fear and despair. End the darkness of this pandemic and bring forth your healing light. We pray especially for those we name before you Dennis, Carol, Nancy, Pastor Steve Swanson, Renee, Vicki, Rhea, Father Jim... (pause for names). Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: Blessed are you, O God, Lord of all creation, we give you thanks for the ministries of our congregation, and the blessings of Concordia Church and Concordia Place and Concordia Day. Use us to make radiant the lives of those you have called us to serve. We ask this through him whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

ELW 254 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

- 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Benediction and Dismissal

P: Go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Proclaim the gospel throughout the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness,
with deeds of justice and mercy!

C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

William Goodwin, "*Trumpet Voluntary*"

Announcements

- In light of the latest updates and changes made to worship at Concordia (livestream only), the Musicians of Concordia have decided to present a program of familiar holiday tunes to uplift and brighten all of our spirits. We'll be presenting a *virtual Lessons & Carols* program that will be distributed over the course of the 4 weeks of Advent. The first selection was released this past Wednesday, and we will release 3 Lessons & Carols each Wednesday yet to come. For the final Wednesday of Advent, we will release all 9 with some "bonus tracks" as a special concert and celebration of Christmas at Concordia. Each of these videos can be found on our YouTube Channel: **Concordia Church Chicago**, and linked on our website. Further details of timing and where to watch the releases to be shared soon. We hope you can join us for some holiday cheer!
- We want our children to be able to participate in Sunday worship and learn about God's love for them, even while we cannot hold classes or activities here at church. Concordia Church is mailing (monthly) resources to families that include a weekly bulletin with fun activities/lessons that corresponds to that week's readings and a coloring page for each child in the home. If you would like to receive these monthly mailings of children's faith resources, or if you have any questions, please connect with Jen Phillips at jphillips@concordiafaith.org or call her at 773-463-1600 x 402. We also enjoy hearing from you – we invite you to connect and share how things are going for you and let us know how we can support your child's growth in faith at home.
- We appreciate your continued gifts to Concordia Church! Remember, you may give in three ways:
 1. Text-to-give: Text "Concordia" to 73256 and follow the link you receive
 2. Give online at onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give
 3. Send a check via mail to the church