

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

12/10/2023

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

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## PRELUDE

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**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.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**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**

**GATHERING HYMN** [ELW#607 “Come, Ye Disconsolate”](#)

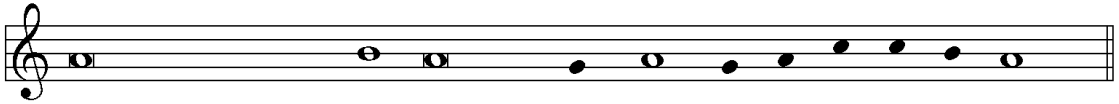
*The first and second candles of the Advent Wreath are lit as the following prayer is offered.*

**P** Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call us to prepare your way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C Amen**



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



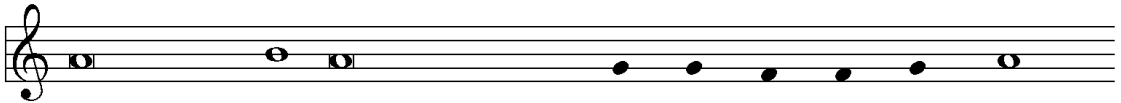
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



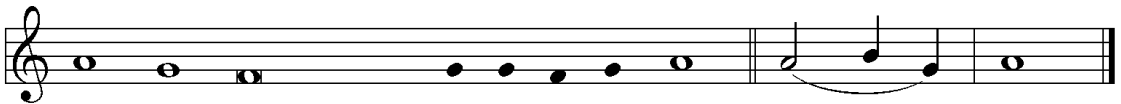
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**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

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** [Glory to God in the Highest](#)

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## **PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13**

**L** <sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O Lord;  
you have restored the good for tune of Jacob.

**C** <sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

- L <sup>8</sup>I 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.
- C <sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**
- L <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- C <sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
- L <sup>12</sup>The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- C <sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the Lord  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

### ISAIAH 40:1-11

- L A reading from Isaiah: <sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak 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. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
- <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get 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!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He 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.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** [ELW#588 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"](#)

**SERMON:** ([Sermon Audio Link](#))

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**OFFERING\*:** ([On-Line giving Link](#))

*The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**L** With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

**L** Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

**L** Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

**L** Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,  
**C receive our prayer.**

**L** Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. We pray especially for Bob Brackbill, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Alexis Erdman, Samantha Erdman, the Fleming family, Jeff Fultz, Mary Goehring, Bob Hardy, Angela Hays, Mark Hughes, the Johnson family, Robert Karner, Charles Larsen, Charlotte Leer, the McNamara family, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Julie Obie, Peter Olsen, Brenda Penyak, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Claudia Schober, D. J. Singer, Jack Smith, MaKenzie Snyder, the Spiegler family, Esther Trautwein, Rich Wohkittel, and Pastor Jack. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**L** Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**L** With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**L** Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C** **Amen.**

**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**

**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**

**SENDING HYMN** [ELW#510 "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"](#)

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Upcoming Events!**

- **Pointsettias** – If interested, please contact Debbie Fulz (\$10 each)
- **December 17** – Chocolate and Carols with the Community and Scouts
- **December 24** – 9:30 am Regular Service, 7 pm Christmas Even Service
- **January 6** – Saturday, 10 am – Taking down the greens
- **February 18** – Lady Terps Basketball Game, 1 pm (contact Bob Hardy for tickets)

\*Offering to be sent to

Robert Brackbill

10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church

9122 Sybert Drive

Columbia Hills

Ellicott City, MD 21043

<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291)

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