

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today, as Advent continues, our readings proclaim comforting words of promise and feature John the Baptizer's ministry of directing our gaze to Christ. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday** or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. If you have an Advent wreath at home, you may wish to light two candles. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.**

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

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 the city
that it has served its term,
that its penalty is paid,
that it has received from the LORD's hand
double for all its 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,
with an arm to rule;
God comes bearing the reward,
preceded by the recompense.

¹¹The LORD will feed the chosen flock like a shepherd;
God’s arms will gather the lambs,
God’s bosom will carry them,
and the LORD will gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201206/playlist>

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

- ¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.
- ²You 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.
- ⁹Truly, 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.
- ¹¹Faithfulness 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.
- ¹³Righteousness 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 concerning the 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 God's 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 God at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

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

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 straight the paths of the Lord.’ ”

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, “After me one who is more powerful than I is coming; the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but the one who is coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

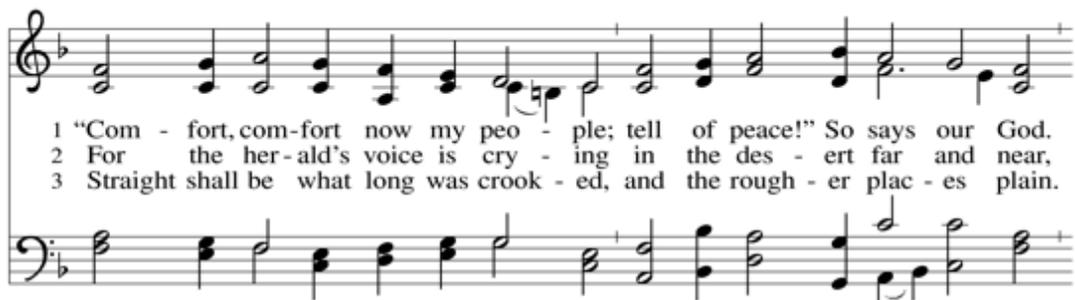
We are indeed like grass. And we rightly join the crowd coming to John, confessing our sins. So we wait for the day of God, the day when the more powerful one comes, when the shepherd God gently leads the hurt exiles home, when all the earth and sky will be made new, when righteousness and peace will kiss each other. We wait. When will that day come? The Gospel of Mark itself is waiting: the book is named “the beginning of the good news.” When will we receive the good news itself? Now. Here. The whole Gospel book shows us the crucified and risen Jesus Christ who is to be seen now among us, especially when we are able to assemble, when we remember how Christ has baptized us together in the Holy Spirit. But Christ is also seen among all the little, needy, waiting ones of the world. He is seen in the hiddenness of our homes whenever the voice of the word of God is heard. He is the powerful one hidden in our waiting world, God with us in the withering grass. The healing has begun. Jesus Christ by the poured out Spirit makes of us, even in these hard times, heralds to say to our cities — to say with our words and our deeds — “Here is your God.”

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman’s Second Sunday of Advent Sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201206/playlist>

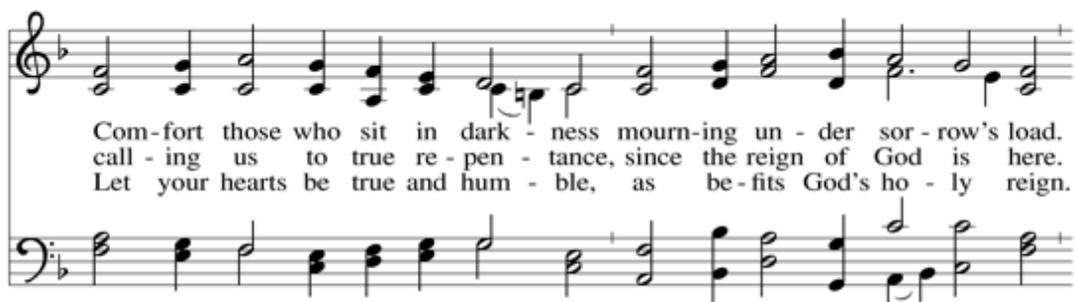
You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201206/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



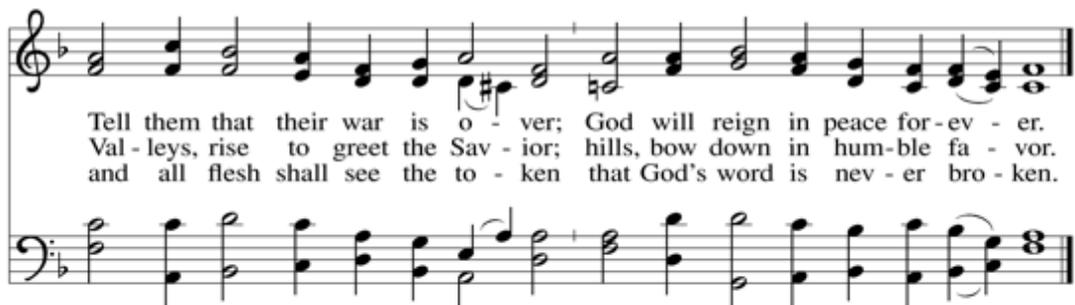
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Then pray these intercessions:

On this second Sunday of Advent, let us pray for this weary world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "In mercy, restore us."

A brief silence.

Come to the church, O faithful God. Assist our Bishop, our Pastor, and all who minister in the church. Show us what is your way and where are your paths, and awaken all the baptized to the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

A brief silence.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to the Jewish people, O covenant God, at this their festival of Hanukkah. End the world's anti-Semitism, and bring peace to Jerusalem.

A brief silence.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to the earth, O creating God. As the seasons change, protect all that lives. Mend the wounds of environmental damage, and restore balance to ecosystems.

A brief silence.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to the nations, O sovereign God. Inspire governmental officials to strive for peace within their land and between countries. Remember the people of Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Guide the nations towards cooperative efforts when facing global issues.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to our country, O righteous God. Teach us how to end discrimination and to value diversity. Bring political parties into helpful conversation with each other. Assist the unemployed, and uphold people with physical and intellectual disabilities.

A brief silence.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to all who are facing the coronavirus, O compassionate God. Protect the vulnerable. Heal the sick. Embrace the dying. Sustain medical workers. Prepare a vaccine. End this scourge.

A brief silence.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to all who suffer, O merciful God. Empower us to feed the hungry in our nation and around the world. Gather into your healing embrace those who are afraid, lonely, sick, or struggling with depression. We pray especially for Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Don Hansen, Gretchen Zeltner, Angie, Kyler, Debbie, Kat, Jeanne, Russ, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Jamie, Frank Fuelling, Carl Lacey, Heidi Dech, Father Phillip Swingler, Irene Mount, Michael Chaffier, Maria Liwski and Joyce Johnson.

A brief silence.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come, O tender-hearted God, to each one of us, and receive our silent prayers.

A longer time of silence.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

Come to us, O eternal God, as you came to the saints. We remember especially St. Nicholas in his care for children, and those we name before you now: Don Oaks and the family of Joseph Huntington. Bring us with them through our wilderness into the fulfillment of your promises.

A brief silence.

O God, be gracious to us:

In mercy, restore us.

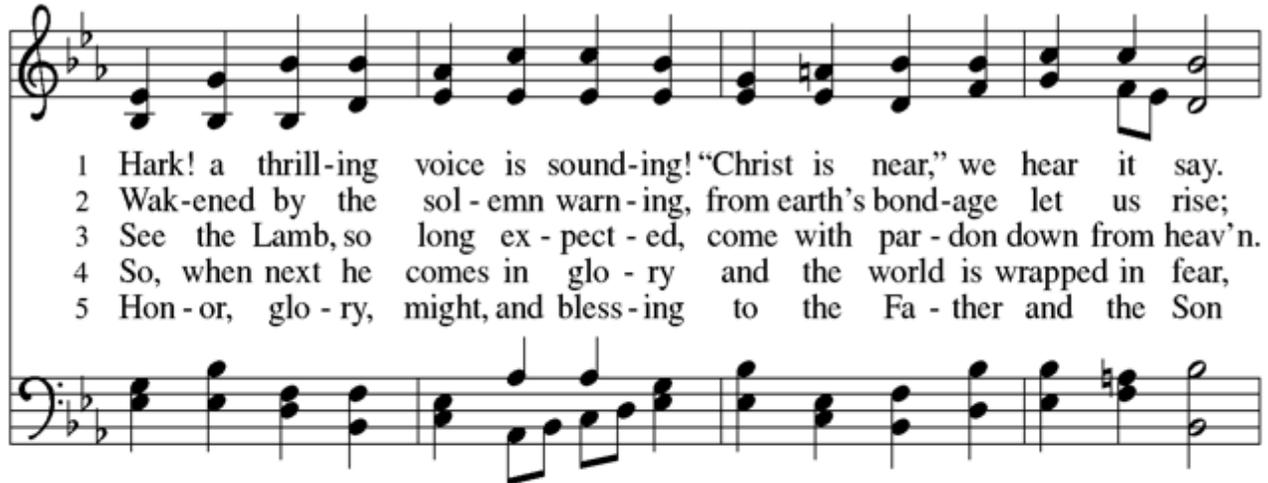
Come near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

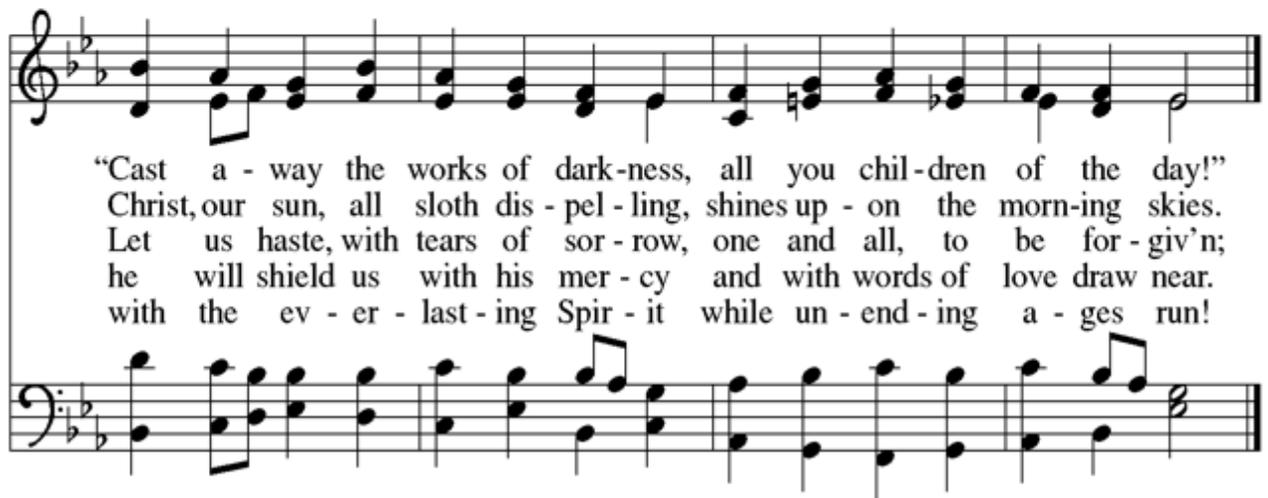
Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201206/playlist>

HYMN #246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

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

**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.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.



We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday (commemoration of Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397) Psalm 27. **Tuesday** Isaiah 4:2-6. **Wednesday** Luke 1:5-17. **Thursday** Psalm 126. **Friday** Philippians 3:12-16. **Saturday** Habakkuk 3:13-19. **Third Sunday of Advent** (commemoration of Lucy, martyr, 304) Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 *or* Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #256 and Hymn #246.
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