

Our Saviour

Lutheran Church



Saturday Worship † 9 December 2023
The Second Saturday of Advent † Year B

6194 Dumfries Rd. Warrenton, VA 20187 + 540.347.3224. + www.oslc-warrenton.org

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.

Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King. (*Refrain*)

No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. (*Refrain*)

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. (*Refrain*)

GATHERING

Gathering Song *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

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.

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.

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.
Come, Thou long expected King.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C **Amen.**

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation.**

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

L 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.

Children's Message

Children come forward during "This Little Light of Mine".



WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

L A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak 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.

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,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He 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.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

L We will read the Psalm responsively. The congregation will read the sections in bold print.

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You 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.

⁹**Truly, 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.

¹¹**Faithfulness 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 before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

L A reading from the second letter of St. 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 about his 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 his 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 him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The congregation remains seated during the multi-voice presentation of the lesson.

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark: ¹ This is the beginning of the good news of Jesus, the Anointed One, *the Liberating King*, the Son of God.

² Isaiah the prophet told us *what would happen before He came*:

Isaiah: Watch, I will send My messenger in front of You to prepare Your way and make it clear *and straight*.

³ *You'll hear him*, a voice crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Eternal One, a straight way in the wandering desert, a highway for our God."

Mark: ⁴ *That messenger was* John the Baptist, who appeared in the desert *near the Jordan River* preaching that people should be ritually cleansed through baptism *with water as a sign* of both their changed hearts and God's forgiveness of their sins. ⁵ People from across the countryside of Judea and from the city of Jerusalem came to him and confessed that they were deeply flawed and needed help, so he cleansed them with the waters of the Jordan. ⁶ John dressed *as some of the Hebrew prophets had*, in clothes made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. He made his meals *in the desert* from locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He preached a message *in the wilderness*.

John the Baptist: Someone is coming who is a lot more powerful than I am—One whose sandals I'm not worthy to bend down and untie. ⁸ I've washed you here through baptism with water; *but when He gets here*, He will wash you in the Spirit of God.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“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.

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.

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.

Prayers of the People

When prompted, everyone is encouraged to call out names of people, places or organizations for which they are thankful or that are in need of God’s care.

The minister begins the prayers:

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Hear now the names we speak before you and each other.

The minister concludes the prayers:

P Into your hands, O God, we commend those for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

MEAL

Sharing Our Gifts

L Let us offer back to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

Our offerings support the work of the church here and around the world. Please pass the baskets from front to back. You may also make an offering online at www.oslc-warrenton.org by clicking the "DONATE" tab on the homepage. Thank you!

Offertory Song

I Wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray together.

C God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Dialogue

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world. 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. 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. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray as our Savior taught us.

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.

Sharing Holy Communion

*All baptized Christians are invited to share Christ's Body.
If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please come
forward and stand or kneel around the altar.*

Communion Song

Even So Come

All of creation all, of the earth
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord;
Jesus is coming soon.

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint,
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame;
Jesus is coming soon.

Chorus:

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing:
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.

There will be justice, all will be new.
Your name forever, faithful and true;
Jesus is coming soon.

(Chorus)

So we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait; You're coming soon.
So we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait; You're coming soon.

(Chorus)

God, we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait; You're coming soon.
God, we wait, we wait for You.
Yes, we wait; You're coming soon.

Prayer After Communion

L Let us pray.

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

L The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW264

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Keep awake.
C Thanks be to God.

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