



Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS  
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Education Hour 8:45 AM - Divine Worship 10:00 AM  
Communion First and Third Sundays  
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Wednesday, December 2, 2020  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in Advent

Prelude  
Tower Bells and Welcome  
Announcements

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

Opening Hymn

LSB 343

1 Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let every hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story:

[Refrain] Hosanna to the Lord,  
for He fulfills God's Word!

2 God's people, see Him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strewn before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! [Refrain]

3 Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet every nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him! [Refrain]

4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding: [Refrain]

OPENING VERSICLES FOR ADVENT (*Congregation Stands*)

P Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

**C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

P Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C Make His paths straight.**

P Shower, O heaven, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

**C Let the earth open, that salvation may spout forth.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C The name of the Lord is to be praised.**  
**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

#### READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:1-5

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD'S hand  
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the  
LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our  
God.

4 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.

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

Matthew 21:1-11 (*Stand*)

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" 11 And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

RESPONSORY (*Remain standing*)

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

APOSTLES' CREED (*Remain standing*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*About the sermon hymn: "Savior of the Nation, Come":*

The text of "Savior of the Nations, Come" is attributed to St. Ambrose who lived 340-397; only 300 years after Jesus lived on earth! Martin Luther translated it into German, and our English version of the hymn has a number of translators who helped.

*About St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 340-397 AD from [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org):*

"Ambrose (b. Treves, Germany, 340; d. Milan, Italy, 397), one of the great Latin church fathers, is remembered best for his preaching, his struggle against the Arian heresy, and his introduction of metrical and antiphonal singing into the Western church. Ambrose was trained in legal studies and distinguished himself in a civic career, becoming a consul in Northern Italy. When the bishop of Milan, an Arian, died in 374, the people demanded that Ambrose, who was not ordained or even baptized, become the bishop. He was promptly baptized and ordained, and he remained bishop of Milan until his death. Ambrose successfully resisted the Arian heresy and the attempts of the Roman emperors to dominate the church. His most famous convert and disciple was Augustine. Of the many hymns sometimes attributed to Ambrose, only a handful are thought to be authentic."

SERMON – "In Every Age and Condition God's People Are Preparing for Jesus"

A. Isaiah's and Matthew's Time

B. St. Ambrose's Time

C. Our Time

1 Savior of the nations, come,  
 Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
 Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
 That the Lord choose such a birth.

3 Here a maid was found with child,  
 Yet remained a virgin mild.  
 In her womb this truth was shown:  
 God was there upon His throne.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
 By the Spirit of our God,  
 Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 Woman's offspring, pure and fresh

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
 From His pure and kingly hall;  
 God of God, yet fully man,  
 His heroic course began.

Collect for God's Word Among Us *Congregation Stands*

**C Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.     **C Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.  
**C Amen.**

Closing Hymn

*Savior of the Nation, Come vs 5-8 (stand)*

LSB 332

5 God the Father was His source,  
 Back to God He ran His course.  
 Into hell His road went down,  
 Back then to His throne and crown.

7 From the manger newborn light  
 Shines in glory through the night.  
 Darkness there no more resides;  
 In this light faith now abides.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
 Who in flesh the victory won.  
 By Your mighty power make whole  
 All our ills of flesh and soul.

8 Glory to the Father sing,  
 Glory to the Son, our King,  
 Glory to the Spirit be  
 Now and through eternity.

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

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