

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**  
**2nd Sun. in ADVENT - Yr B**

MAIL COPY



*Ringling of Bell*

PRELUDE - BELL CHOIR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF THE MONTH *Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

**No. 242**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH & PRAYER

READER: Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.  
You fasten righteousness around your waist  
And baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.  
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,  
And teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.  
We ask that peace abound,  
Until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**ALL: Amen.**

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,  
in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C: Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy One,

**C: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful  
in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see  
your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that  
divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming,  
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve  
your creation. Amen.**

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through † Jesus you are forgiven, By Jesus you are welcome,  
In Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.

**C: Amen.**

- 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**    *We pray together*

**L:** The Lord be with you.    **C:** **And also with you.**

**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.**

**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40:1-11**    *Good news of God's coming for a people in exile.*

<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. **WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

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

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

**C:** **You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

**L:** 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:** **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

**L:** Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**C:** **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

**L:** The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

**C:** **Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING: 2 PETER 3:8-15A**    *Waiting for and hastening the day of God*

<sup>8</sup>Do 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. <sup>9</sup>The 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. <sup>10</sup>But 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.    > >

<sup>11</sup>Since 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, <sup>12</sup>waiting 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? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Sung

pg. 151

**C: Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL: MARK 1:1-8 *John appears from the wilderness*

**C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD.

**C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

CHILDREN'S WORD

SERMON Pastor Kris Ferkin

HYMN *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

No. 256

- 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.**

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

P: Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

## OFFERING— OFFERTORY/BELL CHOIR—GLOBE OFFERING

*Children are invited to bring forward an offering to the globe in the front of the church. Globe offerings will go to one of our global mission partners to be decided by our youth.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: God our provider,

C: **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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

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.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER – WORDS OF INSTITUTION – LORD'S PRAYER

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.*

## COMMUNION — HYMN

*Once in Royal David's City*

**No. 269**

- 1 **Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**
- 2 **He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**
- 3 **And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**
- 4 **Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

## COMMUNION BLESSING — PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Generous God,

C: **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. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you,  
and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

**vss. 1 & 4 No. 264**

- 1 **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! [CONTD]**

- 4 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!

*Ringling of Bell*

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

POSTLUDE BELL CHOIR

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

INTERIM PASTOR—Kris Ferkin WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Tanya Short  
ORGANIST—Tammy Hanson COMMUNION SET-UP—Jan Ashland GREETERS—Spidahls COMMUNION SERVERS  
& COFFEE SERVERS—Lerfalds TECH CREW— Heidi Haugen, Barb Groth, Steve Johnson, Holly Aldorfer.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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#### **CONNECTIONS**

WEBSITE: [flickenyon.org](http://flickenyon.org) FACEBOOK: **First Evangelical Lutheran Kenyon MN**  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@flickenyon>  
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#### **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Lila Cole, Jennifer Lerfald, Carolyn Walker, Lavon Underdahl, Kevin Hildebrandt, Jim Fountaine, Liz Flaten, Boe Aronson.

#### **CALENDAR**

SUN/DEC 10	9 AM	Worship – Advent Two
	10 AM	Coffee
	10 AM	<b>*TRANSITION TEAM MEETING*</b>
	10 AM	<b>Sunday School Christmas Shopping</b>
MON/DEC 11	1:30	Literary Guild
WED/DEC 13	6 PM	Wed Worship
	6:30 PM	Confirmation
THU/DEC 14	1 PM	LOVE DAY
	5:30 – 9 PM	Sons of Norway
	7 PM	AA
SUN/DEC 17	9 AM	Worship – Advent Three – <b>with Sunday School Nativity Pageant</b>

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday Dec 17 – Sunday School Christmas Program** During 9 am worship  
**Sunday Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Morning** No Morning Worship  
**Sunday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Afternoon** Candlelight Service at 4 PM