



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Advent**

**Prospect Heights, IL
December 6, 2020**

JESUS, THE ROOT OF JESSE'S TREE

AS WE GATHER

“The land of Moriah.” Our first impression may be that this geographic location in the Middle East does not have much meaning for us today. Yet, it does. A mountain in Moriah is the place that the Lord instructs Abraham to travel to in order to sacrifice his son Isaac. As the pair ascend the mountain and come to where God led them, the Lord intervenes and spares Isaac’s life, providing a ram as the offering. In the New Testament, “the land of Moriah” has even greater significance for us. This is where Jerusalem and the temple are built. This land is where Jesus will ascend Mount Calvary. God, however, will not spare the life of His only begotten Son; instead, He will allow Him to die for you. This sacrifice for you is what Jesus was born to do. Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!

+ PREPARATION +

344 ON JORDAN’S BANK THE BAPTIST’S CRY

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| 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings! | 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev’ry place. |
| 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there. | △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore. |
| 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay. | |

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INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 11:1; Genesis 22:17b–18; Hebrews 11:17a

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

C and in your offspring

P shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,

C because you have obeyed My voice.

P By faith Abraham, when he was tested,

C offered up Isaac.

CONFESSION OF SINS

184

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

ABSOLUTION

185

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P All those who await His appearance pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P The whole creation pleads:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Awaiting the shoot from the stump of Jesse, we implore:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

(As the hymn is sung, the candles of the Advent wreath are lighted.)

891 O LIGHT WHOSE SPLENDOR

sts. 1, 3

1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
With radiance brighter than the sun,
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;

3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
O Son of God, our Life-bestower,
Whose glory lightens endless days.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who provided Abraham with offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as many as the sand that is on the seashore, that in his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING

Hebrews 11:17–22

P A reading from Hebrews, the eleventh chapter.

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Genesis 22:1–18

P A reading from Genesis, the twenty-second chapter.

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1: 1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

547 THE LAMB

sts. 1, ref, 2–3

1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where’s the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price! Refrain

2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav’n His praise to sing. Refrain

ref Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me
His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain

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SERMON

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, we give thanks this day for calling us and the whole world to repentance and faith by Your holy prophets, by Your servant John the Baptist, and by Your own Son, whose Spirit calls, gathers, and enlightens everyone through His mighty Word and Sacraments. Grant that we and all who hear His voice remain faithful in the fellowship of Your Holy Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Continue to give Your blessing, power, and grace to Your Church, especially all pastors and servants You have called and given to guard, feed, and teach Your flock. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give stability to our country, supplying all who make, administer, and judge our laws with wisdom and goodwill toward all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Bless the schools of the Church and all centers of learning and research that those who teach would serve You honorably and that our common life be conformed to the ways of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P By Your Word and Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity, [*especially . . .*]. Support all who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near, [*especially . . .*]. Give Your tender care to all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** Remembering those who have loved and served You who now rest from their labors, we give You thanks. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

- 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 Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, the mightier One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit so that all may come to You in the forgiveness of sins by the cleansing of His blood shed for the life of the world. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

- C** **O holy, holy, holy Lord, The God by heav'nly hosts adored,
Both heav'n and earth Your glory show. Hosanna sing we to the Lord.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for our Savior, by whose sacrifice of His blood and death on a cross all who are baptized in Him are enabled by His Spirit worthily to repent and receive forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.

Grant that we may faithfully eat of His body and drink of His blood and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

- C** **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

PRAYER

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the I - Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

347 COMFORT, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE

1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."

2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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