

“Watch, Wait, Wonder and Worship”

Ascension Lutheran Church

Midweek Advent Worship December 9, 2020

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gather in silence and light a candle or Advent wreath.

Ring the prayer bell.

Opening

The voice of one crying in the wilderness says:

“Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Hymn #262 **“Wait for the Lord”**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is in the treble clef, starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and then C5. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second line of musical notation continues the hymn. It also consists of two staves. The melody continues from the previous line, ending on G4. The bass line continues with harmonic support.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Prayer

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.
Give us courage and faith to proclaim, in word and deed,
the good news of your coming,
even as we wait in patience for that day when Christ will come again.
Amen.

Psalm 37:3-8; 16-19; 28-29

A reading from Psalms.

³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. ⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. ⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday. ⁷ Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret-- it leads only to evil.

¹⁶ Better is a little that the righteous person has than the abundance of many wicked. ¹⁷ For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous. ¹⁸ The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will abide forever; ¹⁹ they are not put to shame in evil times, in the days of famine they have abundance.

²⁸ For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his faithful ones. The righteous shall be kept safe forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. ²⁹ The righteous shall inherit the land, and live in it forever.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from Second 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.

Reflection

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

What in your life requires patience?

What are you waiting for?

How might you prepare the way of Christ's coming?

Hymn #264

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

Verses 1-2



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of
God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share,
and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us;
for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection
in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering,
and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all servants of the church, for all of us gathered together,
and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Add your prayer concerns that they may be shared in community.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

A time of silence follows.

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing
in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one
another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.

To you, O Lord.

Guide us waking, O Lord,
and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we may rest in peace.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Blessing

Even as we wait, watch, and wonder,

God is with us.

Dismissal

Go in peace.

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