



**The Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023
Canoga Park Lutheran Church
7357 Jordan Ave.
Canoga Park, CA
818-348-5714 www.cplchurch.org**

AS WE GATHER

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONGS

♪ Everlasting God ♪

♪ Leaning ♪

♪ O Come, O Come ♪

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 27:13–14; 130:5

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

People: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

People: and in His word I hope.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Based on Psalm 130*

Pastor: With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.

People: Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!

Pastor: Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!

People: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.

Pastor: But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.

People: Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.

Pastor: Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.

People: Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.

Pastor: As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our home in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \times Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

People: that by His coming we may be found in Him, fully redeemed and at peace;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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.

³A voice cries:

"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.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on 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 news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Jubilate Ringers

HOLY GOSPEL

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.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES CREED

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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

SERMON SONG ♪ Joy to the World ♪

SERMON “Preparing ” Isaiah 40 & Mark 1

POST SERMON SONG ♪ Newborn King ♪

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we wait in love for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

Father in heaven, You prepare a heavenly home for all who trust in You and come into Your presence through faith in Your Son. By His coming into this world to save us from the devastation of our sins, dying and rising again to make us eternally Yours, we have been reconciled to You. We praise You, Father, for this amazing gift of love and ask that Your Holy Spirit keep Your steadfast love secure in our hearts throughout our days of waiting. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

People: To You alone our prayers we bring!

Pastor: Knowing that You have come once into this world, Lord Jesus, we are confident that You will come again. On that glorious Day when we are all gathered before You, when every knee will bow to You and every tongue confess Your holy name, we will receive the restoration of all things in heaven and on earth that Your Word has promised. Until Your final coming, O Lord, keep us secure in our salvation. Remind us that our waiting is because of Your patience, and that You call us to use this time we have been given to share Your precious Gospel with the world You died and rose again to save. Stir up the hearts of all who hear Your Word this day, that many will come to saving faith and experience the comfort of Your presence in their lives. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

People: To You alone our prayers we bring!

Pastor: As wanderers in this land, O Lord, we experience various types of brokenness and pain, suffering and grief. We lift before You in prayer those we love, who are also loved by You. For those longing for food and shelter, grant Your mercy. For those needing protection and peace, grant Your Spirit. We pray for those in our families and connected to our family of faith who have special concerns of body and spirit, [especially . . .]. Grant that all who wander find their home in You alone, O Lord. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

People: To You alone our prayers we bring!

Pastor: Comforting Spirit, fill our land, our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and all our interactions with others with Your blessings. Allow this season of waiting and preparation to refocus our hearts and minds upon Your mission for our congregation and for us as individual members of this household of faith. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, “Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!”

People: To You alone our prayers we bring!

SPECIAL PETITIONS

Pastor: Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into the good and gracious hands of our sovereign God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who lives and reigns, both now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: For all the things we don't know how to pray for, for those things that burden us, stress us out, and keep us awake all night; for the prayers where we don't even have the words to say, hear those prayers as we pray as the Lord 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

*Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.*

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

♪ **Go Tell It On the Mountain** ♪

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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We Are...

Canoga Caring
Park People
Lutheran Loving
Church Christ!



This Worship is a combined Worship and is recorded and uploaded to our website so other members and folks all around the world are able to Worship with us! If you can't be with us in-person Sunday mornings, please Worship along with us online. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. In HIS service & love, Pastor Tim

Join us for an Advent Dinner in the gym this Wednesday, December 13th @5:45PM, followed by an Advent Service in the Sanctuary at 6:30PM.

We will have a REGULAR WORSHIP service on Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve morning @ 9:30AM.

There will be one Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30 P.M. Sunday, December 24th with Organ, Praise Team and Jubilate Bell Ringers