

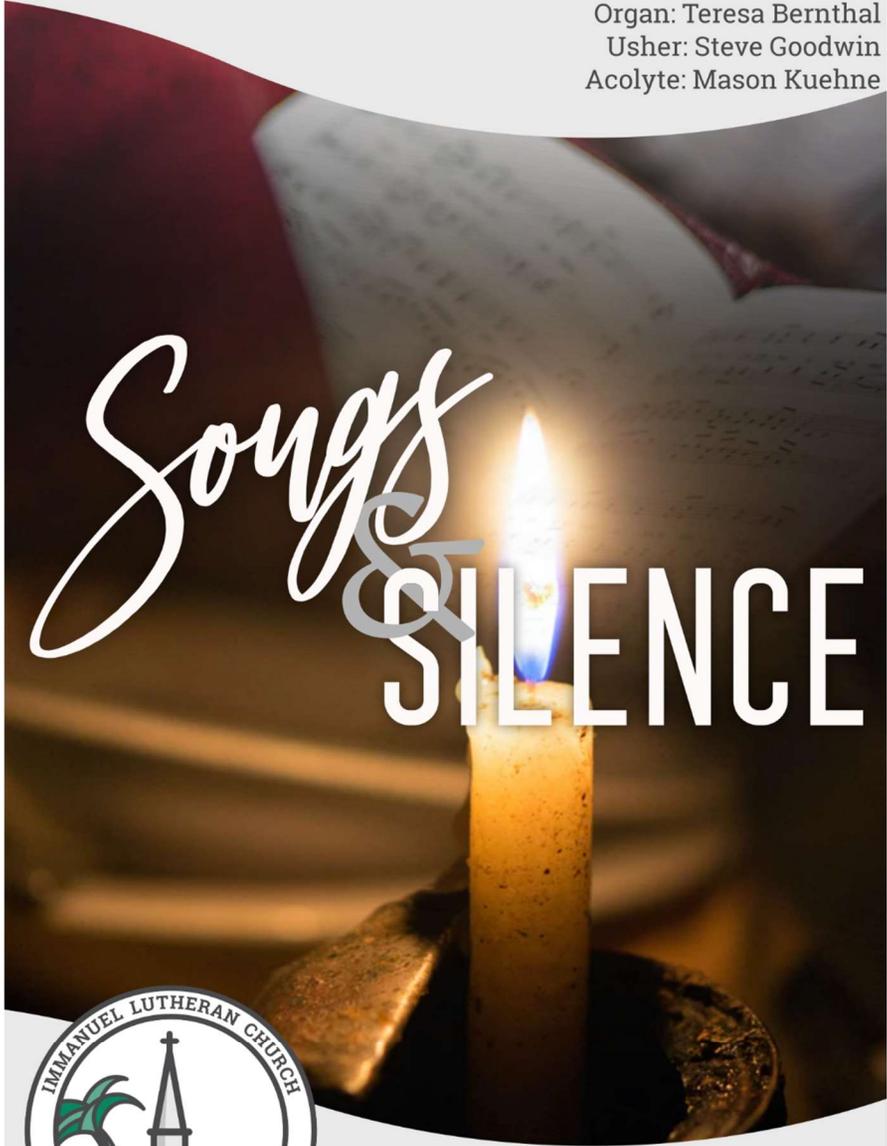
December 6, 2020

Advent 2

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Steve Goodwin

Acolyte: Mason Kuehne



Songs & SILENCE



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Songs and Silence

Advent is a time of preparation. A common preparation for Christmas comes in the form of Christmas songs. Christmas tunes fill the airwaves this time of year, and we all have a few favorite go-to's. However, silence is also an important tool during our Advent preparations. This is a time of year to silence our thoughts and mediate on God's Word. This Advent, we'll be making use of both Songs and Silence. On the four Sundays of Advent we will be considering the four songs of Christmas. During our Wednesday Evening services we will be considering three lessons of silence.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

P Pastor

C Congregation

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #73:1,4-5 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

- 1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of Glory waits; The King of kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here. Life and salvation He doth bring, Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing: We praise Thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art Thou!**
- 4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart From earthly use for Heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin. To Thee, O God, be praise For word and deed and grace!**
- 5. Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide! Let me Thy inner presence feel, Thy grace and love in me reveal; Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won. Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.**

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 7-12, '20.

Mon Isaiah 40:1-11 As we access the Gospel according to Isaiah (and since our hearts are still sinful hearts), we appreciate God telling us that He has developed a double-strength serum to overcome Earth's sin pandemic (1-2). Don't let anything stand in your way to get an immunity shot (3-5), for your life is on the line (6-8). Listen up to these good tidings, the good news (9) that the LORD God is welcoming you into His protective care (10-11).

Tues Mark 1:1-8 dials Isaiah's picture into sharper focus—that the voice crying in the wilderness is John's, and that *preparing the roadway* means repenting, confessing our sins, and receiving God's forgiveness (1-5). God had given John the awesome assignment of putting Jesus center-stage and in the limelight (7-8) while John opted to fade into the background (6-7).

Wed 2 Peter 3:8-14 Jesus arrived, did His job, and returned home. Now, why is He taking so long to ring down the curtain on planet Earth? He's holding back until He salvages every soul that can be salvaged (9). Meanwhile, we try to stay on top of things (11), looking forward and being diligent in every-which way to stay close to Jesus in our hearts and lives (14). Is it becoming burdensome for us to avoid hot-spots in our sin-diseased society?

Thurs Psalm 85 We are living in a parallel universe, parallel to olden times when God rescued His ancient people from Philistines, Egyptians, Assyrians, Persians, etc., but not from the Romans. Today our adversaries are more subtle but fully as dangerous, so God has taken care of our BIG adversary (2-3), and we depend on Him to revive us as we maneuver through life—day by day (4-7), holding tight to Jesus' *righteousness and peace* (10-13).

Fri Luke 3:15-18 Religious people tried to figure out if John might be the Chosen One (15), so John clarified (16) that he was but a lowly servant of the One who would baptize/cleanse them with the Holy Spirit and bring them to Harvest (16-17). Those rural folks got the picture—and would shrink from the horrible fire which awaits those whose religion is unpalatable to God (18).

Sat Acts 19:11-20 We already knew that miracles are unusual, but these were so exceptional (11-12) that when some magicians/quacks tried to horn in on God's territory (13-14), God let a demon from hell set them straight (15-16). All of which boomeranged on Satan (17-18), for our fellow Christians came to realize that publications (or internet websites) which promote black magic, sorcery, or superstition are Satan's tools to captivate naïve persons. So by burning the books, our fellow Christians sent them back to hell where they belonged (19-20). In contrast, God has given us the Holy Bible, which leads souls from hell to heaven.

☐ Let us pray.

☑ **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

☐ Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

☑ **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.**

INTROIT

1 Sam. 2:1ff; Luke 1:46-47

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

☐ My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

☑ **My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.**

☐ There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.

☑ **The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.**

☐ The LORD kills and brings to life; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

☑ **The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and He exalts.**

☐ My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

☐ Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 2:1-10 And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. ² "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. ³ Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. ⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. ⁵ Those

who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. ⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world. ⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. ¹⁰ The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."

EPISTLE READING – Colossians 1:9-18 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

GOSPEL READING – Luke 11:15-28 But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom

✠ Announcements ✠

Our Advent Preparations

continue this Wednesday as we consider the Silence of Mary. The service will be live-streamed. Masks will be required in-person.

The Christmas Eve Service is being planned to be held once

again this year. Due to an expected crowd of around 100, we are not intending to have this service indoors, but rather we aim to use the parking lot as a make-shift sanctuary. As part of the decoration, we are hoping to make use of quart-sized mason jars. If you have any quart-sized mason jars that you would be willing to lend to the church, please bring them over the next few weeks. We will tape the bottom of the jars with your name to ensure that you get them back. Thank you!

The Students of Immanuel will be Christmas Caroling on December 22 at 2:00 pm on the church YouTube page. Please take a little time that Tuesday afternoon to prepare for Christmas with the songs of the school children!

CLC Call News Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL has been called by Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Teacher Matt Thurow, Berea, Inver Grove Heights, MN. has returned the call to teach grades 4-8 and serve as principal for Holy Trinity Lutheran School, West Columbia, SC. <> Paul Tiefel III, Messiah, Eau Claire, WI. has been called to serve as principal and upper grade teacher by Messiah, Hales Corners. <> Pastor Michael Gurath, Holy Cross, Phoenix, AZ has returned the call to Redeemer Lutheran, Cheyenne, WY.

Shut-in/Encouragement List Patti Meno continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Bill Issitt III** remains mostly housebound due to poor health. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Bill Hartmann's** health is deteriorating quickly. **Paulette Galstad** is suffering through bad back pain. **Emily Kuehne** suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain, among other ailments. **Loye Issitt** is building back her strength. **David Kleinschmidt's** health is improving. **Mr. Beymer** has been allowed to return to church. **Greg Tinch** is still hospitalized in Orlando.

Last Week (11/29) WH – 36

Total Offering = \$836

General = \$516 | CLC Missions = \$300 | Building = \$20

Usher: Steve | **Cleaner (12/12):** Annette | **Acolyte (12/13):** Hayden

THE DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated.

P Take and eat. This is the true body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink. This cup is the true blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

May this body and blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith, unto life everlasting. Depart in peace. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #755:1,2,5

“What Is This Bread?”

- 1. What is this bread? Christ’s body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release. Oh, taste and see—the Lord is peace.**
- 2. What is this wine? The blood of Jesus she for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace Of life and love, and so I sing: Oh, taste and see—the Lord is King.**
- 5. Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.
Oh, taste and see—the Lord is good.**

THE BENEDICTION:

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

G Amen!

HYMN: TLH #47

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

- 1. Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise With one accord our parting hymn of praise. Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease, Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.**
- 2. Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way; With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day; Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame, That in this house have called upon Thy name.**
- 3. Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night; Turn Thou for us its darkness into light. From harm and danger keep Thy children free, For dark and light are both alike to Thee.**
- 4. Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life, Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife; Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease, Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.**

stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²² but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴ "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first." ²⁷ As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

G 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 of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #283**“God’s Word is Our Great Heritage”**

1. **God's Word is our great heritage And shall be ours forever; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief endeavor. Through life it guides our way, In death it is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds endure, We keep its teachings pure. Throughout all generations.**

SERMON – Luke 1:46-55 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."



*"The Mighty One
HAS DONE
GREAT THINGS
FOR ME,
AND HOLY IS
HIS NAME."*

A Song of God’s Generational Grace

- I. As God had done for many, He’d done for Mary
II. As God has done for Mary, He’s done for Me

HYMN: TLH #91**“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”**

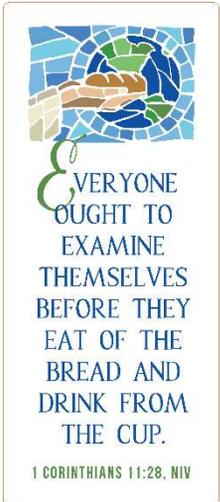
1. **Let the earth now praise the Lord. Who hath truly kept His word And the sinners' Help and Friend Now at last to us doth send.**
2. **What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired, What they longed for many a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.**
4. **Welcome, O my Savior, now! Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou. Here, too, in my heart, I pray, Oh, prepare Thyself a way!**
5. **King of Glory, enter in; Cleanse it from the filth of sin, As Thou hast so often done; It belongs to Thee alone.**
9. **And when Thou dost come again As a glorious King to reign, I with joy may see Thy face, Freely ransomed by Thy grace.**

PRAYER and the LORD’S PRAYER

✠ 6 ✠

✠ Order of Holy Communion ✠

- P** Do you believe that you are a sinner? *The Christian Questions*
- C** **Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.**
- P** How do you know this?
- C** **I know this from the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.**
- P** Are you sorry for your sins?
- C** **Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.**
- P** What have you deserved to receive from God because of your sins?
- C** **I have deserved His anger and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.**
- P** Do you also hope to be saved?
- C** **Yes, this is my hope.**
- P** Whom do you then trust?
- C** **I trust in my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.**
- P** Who is Christ?
- C** **Christ is God’s Son, true God and man.**
- P** How many gods are there?
- C** **There is only one God, but three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**
- P** What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?
- C** **He shed His blood for me and died for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.**
- P** Did the Father also die for you?
- C** **No, the Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is true God and true man; He shed His blood and died for me.**
- P** How do you know this?
- C** **I know this from the holy Gospel and from the words of the Sacrament and by His body and blood which are given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.**
- P** These are those Words of God: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”
- In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”
- And may the peace of the Lord be with you always!



✠ 7 ✠