



“In Medias Res”

Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 8:00 am

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
(Contemporary Service)**

AS WE GATHER

This year, the holy evangelist St. Mark greets us to lead us through a new Church Year. He does not, however, greet us as we might expect. For one thing, he seems to have forgotten all about Christmas! At least Matthew and Luke tell of Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger and of angels and shepherds. But Mark? While Christmas is the earthly “beginning” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this preacher means that his entire Gospel, the whole biblical story, is but “the beginning of the Gospel.” It is as if he means to say that the Baptist’s call to repentance comes to us *In Medias Res*, that is, in the middle of everything else, in the middle of the biblical story and in the middle of our lives and activities, right now. He is saying, “Stop what you’re doing. Repent again and welcome the Greater One, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The Christian faith and life is one of continual repentance and faith. Watch and listen as our Lord comes to us again, now, by His Spirit in His Word and Sacraments.

Please stand for portions of service marked with asterisk ().*

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE WELCOME

Pastor Chris Matthis

***OPENING MEDLEY**

“Jesus You are Worthy”

Brenton Brown

*Jesus, You are mercy, Jesus, You are justice
Jesus, You are worthy, that is what You are
You died alone to save me, You rose so You could raise me
You did this all to make me a chosen child of God*

*Worthy is the Lamb that once was slain
To receive all glory, power and praise
For with Your blood You purchased us for God*

Jesus, You are worthy, that is what You are

***Jesus, You are mercy, Jesus, You are justice
Jesus, You are worthy, that is what You are
You died alone to save me, You rose so You could raise me
You did this all to make me a chosen child of God***

***Worthy is the Lamb that once was slain
To receive all glory, power and praise
For with Your blood You purchased us for God
Jesus, You are worthy, that is what You are***

***Perfect sacrifice crushed by God for us
Bearing in Your hurt all that I deserve
Misjudged from my misdeeds, You suffered silently
The only guiltless man in all of history***

***How worthy is the Lamb that once was slain
To receive all glory, power and praise?
For with Your blood You purchased us for God
Jesus, You are worthy, that is what You are
Jesus, You are worthy, that is what You are***

***Justice and mercy, justice and mercy
Justice and mercy meet on the cross***

***Justice and mercy, justice and mercy
Justice and mercy meet on the cross
Justice and mercy, justice and mercy
Justice and mercy meet on the cross***

“Grateful for the Cross”

Dave Hunt

***God, you reign in glory
With deep unending love
God, the greatest story
You gave your only son.***

***While we were so in need you sent a Saviour.
While we were hopeless broken and lost.
Jesus chose to shed his blood,
To show the world his love.
Lord forever find us grateful for the cross***

*God, you shown us favor
In the fullness of your Grace.
God, there's no one greater
Only you can save.*

*You have offered beautiful redemption
While we were so unworthy of the cost.
Jesus paid our penalty; he died to set us free
Lord forever find us grateful for the cross*

*Thank you for the cross your wrath was satisfied.
Thank you for the cross where sin was crucified.
Your perfect sacrifice has made all things new,
Jesus thank you, Jesus thank you*

*God, please help us follow
And give us eyes to see
God, wherever we go
Be a lamp unto our feet*

*And we'll run the race that you have set before us
And consider any gain we have but loss
Compared with knowing Christ the giver of all life
Lord forever find us grateful for the cross
Lord Forever find us grateful for the cross*

‡ PREPARATION ‡

***INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: and illumine Your Church.

The first and second candles are lit, representing hope and peace.

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord. Recalling our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sins to God in the full assurance of the gift of forgiveness by the mighty sacrifice of His Son.

People: **O God, from the wilderness of lives disfigured and crushed by the devil, our own sin, and the sins of others, we cry out to You for the forgiveness of our sins, those that trouble us as well as those of which we are not aware. Restore our life and faith by Your own command for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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.

People: **Amen.**

+ **WORD** +

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 40:1–11

(Comfort, comfort you, my people.)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak 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.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

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.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A 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.
The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get 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!"
Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 85

Pastor: LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

People: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

People: You covered all their sin.

Pastor: You withdrew all Your wrath;

People: You turned from Your hot anger.

Pastor: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

People: and put away Your indignation toward us!

Pastor: Will You be angry with us forever?

People: Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

Pastor: Will You not revive us again,

People: that Your people may rejoice in You?

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: and grant us Your salvation.

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

People: for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

Pastor: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

People: that glory may dwell in our land.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

People: righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Pastor: Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

People: and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Pastor: Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

People: and our land will yield its increase.

Pastor: Righteousness will go before Him

People: and make His foot steps away.

EPISTLE

2 Peter 3:8-14

(The Lord is not slow to keep His promises.)

But 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. The 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. But 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.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting 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! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1–8

(The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,

the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And 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. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

DCE Kristin Schmidt

SERMON SONG

“Way Maker”

Osinachi

You are here, moving in our midst

I worship You

I worship You

You are here, working in this place

I worship You

I worship You

You are here, moving in our midst

I worship You

I worship You

You are here, working in this place

I worship You

I worship You

**CHORUS: Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are**

**You are here, touching every heart
I worship You
I worship You
You are here, healing every heart
I worship You
I worship You
You're turning lives around
You are here, turning lives around
I worship You
I worship You
You are here, mending every heart
I worship You,
I worship You**

**CHORUS: Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are (REPEAT CHORUS)**

**BRIDGE: That is who You are
And that is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are (REPEAT BRIDGE)**

**Way Maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness (hey)
My God, that is who You are**

**Even when I don't see it, You're working
Even when I don't feel it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working
You never stop, You never stop working (REPEAT)**

*Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are
Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are*

*That is who You are
And that is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are*

SERMON

Pastor Chris Matthis

*CONFESSION OF FAITH

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 everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.epiphanylc.org and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.



If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY](#)

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless You and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and
be gracious to you; the Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING SONG**

"Glorious"

Brenton Brown

**Look inside the mystery, see the empty cross
See the risen Savior, victorious and strong
No one else above Him, none as strong to save
He alone has conquered the power of the grave**

**Glorious, my eyes have the seen the glory of the Lord
Glorious, He stands above the rulers of the earth**

**Look beyond the tombstone, see the living God
See the resurrected, the ruler of my heart
No one else above Him, none to match His worth
The hope of His returning fills the universe**

**Glorious, my eyes have the seen the glory of the Lord
Glorious, He stands above the rulers of the earth
Glorious, glorious, Lord, You are glorious**

**Glorious, my eyes have the seen the glory of the Lord
Glorious, He stands above the rulers of the earth
Glorious, glorious, Lord, You are glorious
Glory in the highest**

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

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SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEKEND

(December 5-6, 2020)

Readings: *(Old Testament)* Isaiah 40:1-11 *(Psalm)* Psalm 85
(Epistle) 2 Peter 3:8-14 *(Holy Gospel)* Mark 1:1-8

	5:00 pm	8:00 am	11:00 am
Preacher	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>
Elders	<i>Mitch Arndt</i>	<i>Mike Huntley</i>	<i>Todd Rychecky</i>
Accompanist	<i>Laura Moes</i>	<i>Praise Team</i>	<i>Laura Moes</i>
Sound System		<i>Tim Schneider</i>	
Video	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Tim Schneider</i>	
Acolyte		<i>Ava Sprankle</i>	
Altar Guild			
Children's Message	<i>DCE Kristin Schmidt</i>	<i>DCE Kristin Schmidt</i>	<i>DCE Kristin Schmidt</i>
Nursery		NURSERY CLOSED	NURSERY CLOSED
Greeters			
Lectors	<i>Denice Rose</i>		<i>Todd Rychecky</i>
Snacks	Suspended	Suspended	Suspended
Ushers			<i>Mark Hefta</i>



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Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
"We help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"

