

# Online Worship Service for Martin Luther Church

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2020

***A warm welcome to watch all services at  
[www.tiny.cc/MartinLuther](http://www.tiny.cc/MartinLuther)***

## **A. GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Prelude**

### **Announcements**

### **Words of Welcome & Opening**

P: In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

A: **And also with you.**

**Gathering Hymn: People, Look East ELW 248 1 & 4** (*See next page*)

### **Psalm 85:1-2.8-13**

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before the Lord  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Amen.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Stir up our hearts, God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

## People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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## B. WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### Reading: Mark 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Amen.

## Sermon by Vicar Adam McComb

### Hymn: Prepare the Royal Highway ELW 264 1 & 4



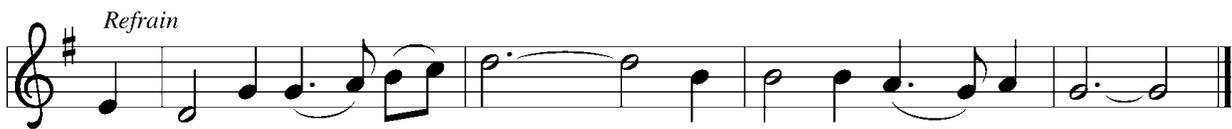
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



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 of Intercession

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

We pray Lord in this season of Advent, a Season of waiting for the arrival of Jesus, a season that has us yearning for family, we pray for part of our family, Patricia and her family, Johnathan, Anita, Neveah, Lyla, Preston, Steven, Monica, Cathy, Logan, and Nathan. May their family heal, recover, and grow stronger together even at a distance. We pray also for the resilience of Mrs. Kummer, Mr. and Mrs. Gasber, Mrs. Zwingenberger, and Mrs. Ganzhuebener. Knowing Lord you hear even the silent prayers and meditations of our hearts we pray now silently or aloud for those whom we have been asked to pray, for those who don't know your guiding presence in all things, and for those who we miss terribly.

Faithful God, in this season you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission.

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise.

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above.

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst.

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace.

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Accompanying God, we pray for all who celebrated their birthdays in the past week, especially for Ida, Karl-Heinz, Johanna, Peter, Andrea, Irene and Helmut.

Bless them as they walk into a new year of their lives. Surround them with your love and your grace.

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work (*especially Nicholas of Myra*). Make their generous lives an example for all.

Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### The Lord`s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven  
Hallowed by 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.**

### C. SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
A: **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

#### Announcements

- Worship: Live-streamed at 11:00 am on Sundays, then a recording on our [YouTube Channel](#) at [www.tiny.cc/MartinLuther](http://www.tiny.cc/MartinLuther). Please subscribe and comment.
  - ◇ **Dec 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent:** 11:00 am English-German Service
  - ◇ **Dec 16:** 7:00 pm [Dinner Church Online](#)
  - ◇ **Dec 20, 4th Sunday of Advent:** 11:00 am German Service, last service led by Vicar Silke Fahl
  - ◇ **Dec 24, Christmas Eve:** 4:30 pm German Service, 6:00 pm English Service, both followed by Zoom Chat
  - ◇ **Dec 25, Christmas Day:** 11:00 am English-German Service

## Announcements continued...

- Sunday Zoom Coffee Talk following Sunday services. You can register for online meetings on Eventbrite at [www.tiny.cc/MartinLutherRegister](http://www.tiny.cc/MartinLutherRegister). Once you register, you will be emailed a Zoom link.
- German [Radio Devotions](#) on our website and Sundays at 9.30 am on CHLO Radio AM 530
- [Sunday School lessons](#) (April-June) on our website. Join our team to help plan fall lessons!
- [Virtual Coffee Shop Talk](#), Mondays 7:00-9:00 pm on Zoom led by Vicar Silke Fahl. Email [vicarfahl@martinluther.ca](mailto:vicarfahl@martinluther.ca) to sign up.
- [Virtual Prayer Circle](#), every other Wednesday 7:00 pm through Zoom led by Solveig Christina Voss. Next date: December 9. To request a prayer or join our prayer circle, email [prayers@martinluther.ca](mailto:prayers@martinluther.ca).
- [Fall Bible Study](#) on the Book of Ruth. Email [vicarfahl@martinluther.ca](mailto:vicarfahl@martinluther.ca) for Zoom log in.
  - ◊ Dinner with Ruth every other Tuesday, 5-6:30 pm, October 13-December 8
  - ◊ Coffee with Ruth every Wednesday, 8:30-9 am, October 14-December 16
  - ◊ Lunch with Ruth every Wednesday, 12:15-12:45 pm, October 14-December 16
- [Masks for Good](#) - A project to ensure that everyone has access to masks. Everyone who wants to get involved can find an activity that suits them. Contact Vicar Adam McComb if you'd like to volunteer, [vicarmccomb@martinluther.ca](mailto:vicarmccomb@martinluther.ca)
- [Corona-Care Calls](#)- Volunteers are continuing to call you with more information and to understand your needs. Let us know if you'd like to join the call team!
- Please phone or email the church office:
  - ◊ if we can help you in any way or to give feedback on what we're offering
  - ◊ if you'd like to volunteer during Sunday services
  - ◊ to support our church and [donate](#). Best ways are PAR or send cheque to church office.

*From sundaysandseasons.com.*

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Vicar Adam McComb, [vicarmccomb@martinluther.ca](mailto:vicarmccomb@martinluther.ca)

Organist & Choir Director: Linda Marcinkus

*Member of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) &  
Partnered with Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)*