

**ABOUT THE DAY:** *John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

## GATHERING MUSIC

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE:** *Advent Peace* -American folk tune, arr. Anne Krenz Organ  
-Junior Gyros

*All who are able are invited to stand*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**GATHERING HYMN: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* p. 15**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

*Light two candles*

## Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.  
All may be seated*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 85:1-2, 8-13 (read responsively – congregation reads bold)**

*Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God. (Ps. 85:13)*

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people  
and blotted out | all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Do 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. <sup>9</sup>The 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. <sup>10</sup>But 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.

<sup>11</sup>Since 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, <sup>12</sup>waiting 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? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. *The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*All who are able are invited to stand*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

<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.” *The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All may be seated*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**

*All who are able are invited to stand*

**HYMN: *Comfort, Comfort, Now My People* p. 16**

*All who are able are invited to stand*

## **NICENE CREED**

In the words of the Creed, let us confess our faith:

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, 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.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all. 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, and gather all people in your healing embrace (*especially George, Doug, Lillian, Arlene, Linda, Dorothy, Paula, Jim, Shirley, Mike, Clark, Lois, Dan, Nancy, Candy, Richard, Kaylie, Dave, Irene, Julie, Justin, Darlene, Randy, Louise*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.,**

For those celebrating birthdays this week. May they continue to grow in faith as they grow in years, *especially Lori, Denise, Carol, Andrew, Gabrielle, Ed, Anthony, Anna, Michael, Liz, Keith, Kayla, Carl, Tom, Marian, Shirley*. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For those celebrating anniversaries this week. May they be bound together by your love, now and forever *especially James & Mary, Dave & Kay*. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Lord, as our shepherd, guide the ministries of all our siblings in Christ in congregations who continue to do your work. Through your Holy Spirit provide courage, perseverance and resources to those who speak your word of truth and love. We give thanks this day for our sisters and brothers united through you. We pray especially for St. John's, Coplay, and their pastor, Timothy Boyer. May they be filled with your Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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

Let us pray as our Lord 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

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✚ now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: *Fling Wide the Door* p. 17**

## EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *Freu dich Sehr (Comfort, Comfort, Now My People)***

-Trente quatre psaumes de David, 1551, arr. Egil Hovland

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-701079.  
All rights reserved.

**THIS WEEK (Dec. 6 – 12)**

**TODAY (6<sup>th</sup>)**

-9:15am, LIVE-STREAMED Worship Service  
-10:15-11:00am, ZOOM Sunday School  
-6:30pm, New Beginnings, M3/5/7

**MON (7<sup>th</sup>)**

-6:30pm, ZOOM Staff Meeting  
-6:30pm, Jordaniers Bowlers  
-7:00pm, Boy Scouts, Social Hall

**TUES (8<sup>th</sup>)**

-6:30pm, Executive Com. Mtg. (virtual)  
-7:00pm, Endowment Inv. Mtg. (virtual)

**WED (9<sup>th</sup>)**

-5:30PM, Jr. Gyros  
-6:15pm, Friendship Ringers

**THU (10<sup>th</sup>)**

-7:00pm, Church Council (virtual)

**NEXT WEEK (Dec. 13 – 19)**

**SUN (13<sup>th</sup>)**

-9:15am, LIVE-STREAMED Worship Service  
-10:30am, ZOOM Congregational Meeting

***Assisting at Worship this Morning***

**Lector:** Carol Rabenold

**Cantor:** Jan Kistler

***Say a Prayer & Send a Card & Pay a Visit***

**Fellowship Mnr:** Florence Roth

**Whitehall Mnr:** LaRue Wuchter

**Lehigh Commons:** Barbara Diehl     **Mosser:** Arlene Miller

**The Palmerton:** Ferne Rock     **Manor Care:** MaryAnn Rau

**Home:** Margaret Smith, Olive Wood, Warren Gressley

***Please keep these people in your prayers:***

George Hein, Doug Fay, Lillian Young, Arlene Miller, Linda Grantz, Dorothy Diehl, Paula Huston, Jim Miller, Shirley Hamm, Mike Herb, Clark Snyder, Lois Heisler, Dan Stark, Candy Cordes, Richard Seltzer, Kaylie Radocha, Dave Ludwig, Irene Johnson, Justin Williams, Julie Williams, Darlene Wenhold, Randy Wenhold, Louise Quaintance

***Birthdays this week:*** Lori Dreisbach, Denise Klinefelter, Carol A. Kuhns, Andrew Budlong, Gabrielle Leonzi, Ed McDevitt, Anthony DiMaggio, Anna Benner, Michael Christianson, Liz Heller, Keith Young Sr., Kaylie Hlay, Carl Benner, Tom Daniels, Marian Peifley, Shirley Schneider

***Anniversaries this week:*** James & Mary Rock (51), Dave & Kay Mancke (45)

**How to contact us:**

Office: 610-395-5912

Office Email: [jordanlutheran@ptd.net](mailto:jordanlutheran@ptd.net)

Pastor: [pastorjordanlutheran@ptd.net](mailto:pastorjordanlutheran@ptd.net)

Dir. Of Chris. Ed.: [jordandce@ptd.net](mailto:jordandce@ptd.net)

Income/Expense Coord: [iecoordjordan@ptd.net](mailto:iecoordjordan@ptd.net)

Sexton: [jordansexton@ptd.net](mailto:jordansexton@ptd.net)

**2020-2021 SPONSORSHIPS**

***All sponsorships have been temporarily suspended until we are back to live worship.***

***Thanks for understanding!***

***HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS:*** Contact Donna Hahn at 610-395-0613 or [dhahn16@gmail.com](mailto:dhahn16@gmail.com) with your choice of dates(s) and sponsorships(s). **Please indicate when reserving your date whether you wish to pick up the flowers after the 9:15 service or want them taken to shut-ins.** If no preference is given, flowers will be taken to shut-ins.

Altar flowers are \$40. Bulletins are \$20. Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate.

***SPONSORSHIP POLICY:*** Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date (within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.

**ATTENDANCE – 11/29/20 – 50-streaming**

**Treasurer's Report  
for November 2020**

	Month	YTD	Budget Amounts	
			Month	YTD
<b>Income:</b>				
Operating Income	\$ 19,390.00	\$ 279,215.00	\$ 28,950.00	\$ 318,450.00
Benevolence	\$ 1,070.00	\$ 13,110.00	\$ 1,667.00	\$ 18,337.00
Property	\$ 2,009.00	\$ 24,252.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 27,500.00
Deficit Reduction	\$ 546.00	\$ 9,045.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 23,015.00</b>	<b>\$ 325,622.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,117.00</b>	<b>\$ 364,287.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Administration	\$ 1,898.00	\$ 13,995.00	\$ 1,985.00	\$ 21,835.00
Ministries	\$ 1,002.00	\$ 8,755.00	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 15,807.00
Payroll	\$ 20,884.00	\$ 233,984.00	\$ 22,049.00	\$ 242,539.00
Property-Utilities, grounds, etc	\$ 3,156.00	\$ 69,319.00	\$ 7,942.00	\$ 87,362.00
Benevolence	\$ 1,767.00	\$ 19,592.00	\$ 1,917.00	\$ 21,087.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 28,707.00</b>	<b>\$ 345,645.00</b>	<b>\$ 35,330.00</b>	<b>\$ 388,630.00</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (5,692.00)</b>	<b>\$ (20,023.00)</b>	<b>\$ (2,213.00)</b>	<b>\$ (24,343.00)</b>

We are now seeing updates on the Truist website for the next phase of the PPP SBA process where we apply for the loan forgiveness but we are in a holding pattern as Truist is finishing their online application process. So, we are still tracking our employee payroll expenses and utilities (electric & oil), which are being paid for through PPP SBA loan funds. We are required to track all these expenses separately for the necessary documentation in our forgiveness application with Truist Bank to show that we have met qualifications for possible forgiveness and conversion to a grant.

In this month's Treasurer's Report, the dollar amounts show the full expenses associated with Payroll and the Property-Utilities, grounds, etc. in the expenses section of the report. These expenses are still being tracked separately from our normal income and expense records using features of our PowerChurch software. This month's Treasurer's Report shows a deficit for the YTD (year to date) a little **less than (\$15,000)**. Treasurer's Reports will NOT be reporting any surplus amounts due to the \$ 47,400 SBA Loan, since this amount was deposited into our Operating Income as a balance adjustment until we are potentially granted forgiveness.

## First Congregational Meeting

**Dec 13th following worship**

Worship will still be live streamed and at the end of the worship service we will switch to Zoom to hold the meeting at 10:30 a.m. This will give both the leaders as well as people at home the opportunity to take a brief break, freshen their coffee etc. and time to log on to the Zoom meeting. You will be able to participate via Zoom using either a computer or a telephone. More directions will be put out the week of the 6th.

**In the event we need a backup meeting date,  
we will have the meeting Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**Small candles:** will be available for pick up, to light at home during the Christmas Eve service. If you have your own candles, please feel free to use one, but anyone not having candles is welcome to stop by the church and take one from the box that will be placed on the bench outside the church office after Wednesday. If you are homebound but in need of candles, please call the office and we will arrange to have them delivered to you, just let us know how many you need. (one per family member, please)



**Contributions Statements:** If you would like to see your progress toward giving goals before the end of the year, then please call or talk to any member of the Finance Committee or call the church office, 610-395-5912, and request your statement now. You may pick up your statement in the church office, have it mailed to your home, or emailed. This is a good time of the year to plan your charitable giving for tax returns before it's too late to make a difference by the end of 2020.

**Church Office Hours:** The office is still open! Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon, to take your phone calls, drop off your offering envelopes, etc. Every effort will be made to do so contact-free.

**Scrip Cards:** are available for Christmas giving. Proceeds support Jordan's youth activities, including the ELCA Youth Gathering. Christmas orders are due 12/6, with pick up on or after 12/13. You may pick up from the church office (contactless).

**Our clothing collection:** is TEMPORARILY ON HOLD due to the collection company's inability to schedule a pick up. We are out of storage space right now so, please, no clothing drop offs till further notice.



A gentle reminder about appropriate masks that are required to be worn at our services: The masks should be either the disposable type or two-layer fabric masks of a similar design that cover both the nose and mouth. Face coverings such as plastic shields (unless used in conjunction with an appropriate mask) and masks with vent valves included, are not considered by the CDC to provide adequate protection. CDC approved masks are available at the Family Center entrance and will be provided to anyone that needs or requests one.

Having every attendee abide by the CDC guidelines will enhance the safety of everyone who is present at our services. The responsible focus here is not our own personal preferences, it is based upon our loving consideration for those around us and reliable information. Please enjoy our Streamed services from the comfort of your home if you are unable to wear a CDC approved face mask.

Thank you for your empathy and cooperation in this matter.

The Relaunch Committee

We send our gratitude to those who continue to faithfully make their offerings!

We highly recommend that at this time you prayerfully consider using online giving. Here is how you sign up:

**WEBSITE** – go to [www.jordanlutheran.org](http://www.jordanlutheran.org) click on the **SUPPORT** tab, then **Electronic Giving** and you will be offered two options to set up your electronic giving

**GIVE+ PLUS** (a free, secure phone app) download this free app to your mobile phone, search by zip code 18069 and when you see Jordan, follow the instructions to make your donation.



# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

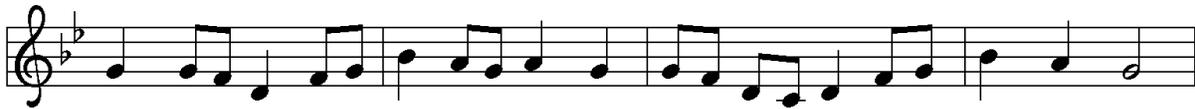
- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

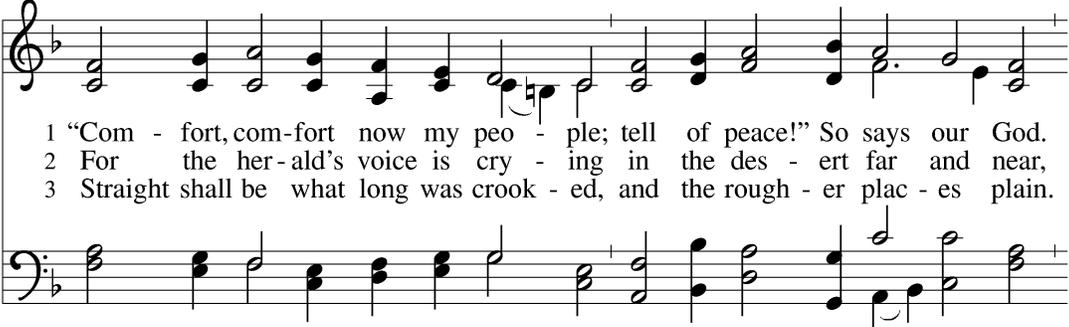
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (*Jefferson*) ELW 254  
 (Public Domain)

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People (*Freu dich sehr*) ELW 256  
 (Public Domain)

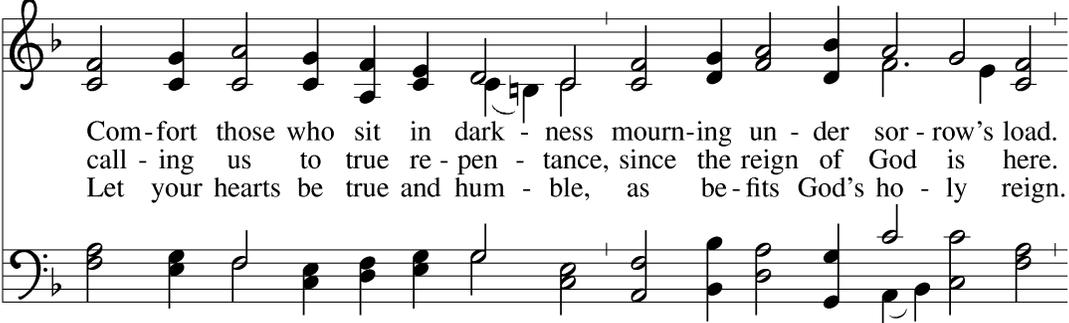
Fling Wide the Door (*Macht hoch die Tür*) ELW 259  
 [Fling Wide the Door (*Macht hoch die Tür*). Words: Georg Weissel, tr.  
 Gracia Grindal, © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg  
 Fortress. Music: J.A. Freylinghausen, arr. hymnal version, © 2006  
 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net  
 #701079]

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (*Tif in veldele*). Text: Wayne L. Wold, copyright 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701079.

## Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

# Fling Wide the Door

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.