

PREPARE YE

Ponder

Week 1: Ponder

*We ponder your steadfast love,
O God, in the midst of your temple.*

--Psalm 48:9

“Prepare Ye”

In this worship series for traditional worship for Advent, we contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas, taking cues from the psalms of old and from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord’s birth. As we draw near to the manger bed of our Savior from sin and death, our hearts prepare him room for his everlasting love.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

December 2, 2020

First Midweek Advent Service

7:00 p.m.

Pre-Service Music ♪

Welcome

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C Amen.

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C Be strong and courageous, be careful to live according to everything Moses commanded.

P Do not let God's Word depart from your mouth.

C But meditate on it day and night.

P Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

C Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts because nothing is impossible with our God!

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Opening Hymn ♪

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

--LSB 343 vs. 1 & 4

1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story (*Refrain*)

(*Refrain*) **Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!**

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding (*Refrain*)

Confession and Absolution

P Almighty God, because nothing is impossible with you, we come into your presence confessing our sin, confident of your mercy and forgiveness. For lack of reverence; for calculating minds; for going along with the majority—

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For selfishness that dares not face truth; laziness content with half-truth; for artificial life and worship—

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For self-indulgence; for being pompous and puffed up with self-importance—

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For cynicism about our fellow Christians; for cruel indifference; for being satisfied with things as they are and failing to trust that with you nothing is impossible—

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For token concern for the poor, the lonely and the loveless people; for confusing faith with good feelings—

C O Christ, forgive us.

P For everything in us that hides your divine power—

C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

P Hear the good news! Because of his death and resurrection, Jesus is our Savior. The Lord God has given to him the throne of his father David. Jesus reigns over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Therefore, you are fully and forever forgiven in Jesus' name.

C Nothing is impossible with our God!

Old Testament Lesson

Joshua 1:7-9

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Epistle Lesson

Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever,

and of his kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Hymn of the Day ♪

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” --*LSB 356 vs. 1 & 3*

**1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!**

**3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!**

The Message “Open the Door”

--*Rev. Marty Marks*

The Prayers

P Heavenly Father, we have a lot in common with Mary. When we consider the enormity of the promises you have made accompanying the birth of Jesus, we also ask, “How will this be?” To which you answer back in your Word,

C **Nothing is impossible with our God.**

P Father, every promise you have made about Jesus and our redemption purchased through his shed blood and empty tomb will happen. Indeed, your great and glorious promises are always “Yes and Amen.” And so we confess,

C **Nothing is impossible with our God.**

P Jesus, on your Second Advent, you will finish making all things new—changing this sinful and dying world into the New Jerusalem. This promise is so overwhelming that you remind us,

C **Nothing is impossible with our God.**

P Father, heal the pain in our families. Restore unity. Release compassion and kindness. And let the love of Jesus pervade and permeate our homes. We believe that,

C **Nothing is impossible with our God.**

P Father, through your Holy Spirit, empower us to think of others more often than ourselves; not to keep a record of wrongs; and no longer rehearse the ways others have hurt us, and the ways we’ve hurt them. Remind us again that,

C **Nothing is impossible with our God.**

P And so we say with Mary, we are your servants, Lord. Let it be to us according to your Word.

C **We pray in Jesus’ glorious and grace-filled name. Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**

P So that whatever we do, in word or deed.

C **We do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

P Giving thanks to God the Father through him because

C **Nothing is impossible with our God!**

Closing Hymn ♪ “The Advent of Our King” --LSB 331 vs. 1,2 & 6

**1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.**

**2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on
To set His servants free.**

**6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.**

**Silent Prayers
Announcements
Postlude**

Participants

**Liturgist and Preacher: Rev. Marty Marks
Organist: Linda Conrad
Pianist/Vocalist: C-J Motisi
Videographer: Krista Marks
Acolyte: Chloe Marks**