

A photograph of a long, straight path made of large, light-colored, irregularly shaped stones. The path leads from the foreground into the distance, where it meets a line of trees and a clear blue sky. The surrounding ground is dry and sandy, with some sparse, low-lying vegetation. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a hot, arid environment.

**A voice cries:
“In the wilderness
prepare the way
of the LORD”**

Isaiah 40:3

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“Bringing Christ to the Tri-County Area”

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Reverend Ron Mueller

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December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Worship Service at 10:30 am

Divine Service Setting One (Page 151)

Prelude

Announcements

Processional Hymn: The Advent of Our King (1-4) #331

Hymn of The Day: On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry #344

Sermon “Prepare the Way”

Pastor Ron Mueller

Recessional Hymn: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (1-2) #347

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Our Lord shares with us His Precious Body & Blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We invite those who are baptized Christians who are able to examine themselves on the basis of these three points of Christian faith:

***I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior from all sin.**

***I believe that the true body & blood of Christ is present in the Sacrament.**

***I resolve, with the Holy Spirit’s help to live for my Lord & witness through my actions that He is my Savior.**

WELCOME to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod on this day, the Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare for Worship. Enter reverently, pray thoughtfully, enjoy the time prior to worship in spiritual meditation.

Pray For One Another! If you bring special needs with you this morning for which you want us to pray, please give to an Usher or Elder.

The Nursery/Lounge is located just past the Ladies room, off the Narthex. Please be assured that children of all ages are encouraged to participate in the worship service.

Fellowship Register: We ask (members, friends, and visitors) to fill out The Fellowship Book which is located at the end of each pew. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

The Flowers are given to the Glory God

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1–11

- ¹ Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
² 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.
- ³ A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the
Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for
our God.
⁴ 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.
⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
- ⁶ 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.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand
forever.
- ⁹ 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!"
- ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
- ¹¹ 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.

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8–14

"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.

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1–8

"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,

- ³ 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."

About the Cover: As the King returns to His Holy City in victory, the voice in the wilderness calls out to clear the way. John's "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3) was a call to prepare every heart for Christ's coming. God's Law continues to call us to repentance so that His saving Gospel may reside in our hearts. Christ has conquered sin, death, and the power of the devil for us. Behold, He is coming again.



Advent