

# LORDSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Sunday, December 10, 2023*

*10:00AM*



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5615 Palmyra Rd SW Lordstown, OH 44481

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lordstownlutheran@yahoo.com

www.lordstownlutheran.org

**Worship Bulletin**  
**Sunday, December 10, 2023**  
**Lordstown Lutheran Church**

Rev. Lor Breyley —Pastor  
Mrs. Margaret Thomas— Organist  
Mrs. Lois Dorazio—Choir Director  
Mrs. Linda Falatic - Lectors

*We welcome you to worship with us this morning and we're glad you are here. May God bless our time together and may you feel renewed and refreshed as we celebrate God's unconditional love for the world. Thank you for joining us today and we hope you will return again soon.*

*Children's Sunday School meets on the 2nd & 4th Sundays during worship, and Children's Service project on the 5th Sunday during the School year. As a courtesy the congregation does not stand during worship unless instructed to do so.*

**Today's Worship Theme**

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.

**Entering Into God's Presence**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE - A Quiet Time for Reflection**

# Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**L:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who opens the heavens  
and draws near to us with salvation.

**P: Amen**

**L:** God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.  
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**L:** Everlasting God,

**P: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.  
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness  
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.  
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.  
We choose comfort over courage.  
We are careless with creation's bounty.  
Look upon us with mercy.  
Turn our hearts again to you.  
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways  
for the sake of our waiting world.  
Amen.**

**L:** Hear these words of assurance:  
God clothes you with garments of salvation  
and covers you with robes of righteousness.  
In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
God's covenant is eternal,  
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

**P: Amen**

# GATHERING HYMN vs ALL

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## Prepare the Royal Highway

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:

*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

# The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of

Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

## Advent Hymn Vs 2

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### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

*Refrain*  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## Second Sunday of Advent

*Lutz Family*

L: Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**ALL: Amen.**

***Light the Second Candle***



SECOND SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**ALL: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together.

**ALL: 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**

## **God's Word for Us Today**

### ***Special Music***



## **First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 LECTOR**

*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.*

1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
2 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.

3 A voice cries out:  
"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 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

6 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.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon 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 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!"

10 See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

11 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                      LECTOR**

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

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

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

8 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.

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

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

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

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

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

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a                      LECTOR**

*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.*

8 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. 9 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. 10 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.

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

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

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**



## **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.*

The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

1The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

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

3the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And 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. 6Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He 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. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

### **Praise to you O Christ**

**Sermon**

**Rev. Breyley**

# HYMN OF THE DAY VS ALL

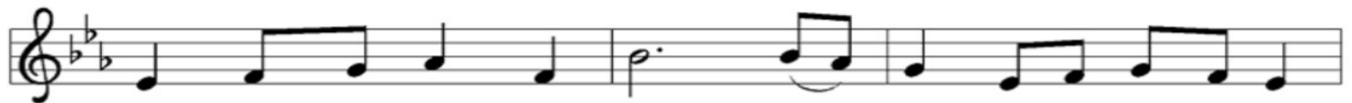
ADVENT

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## There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



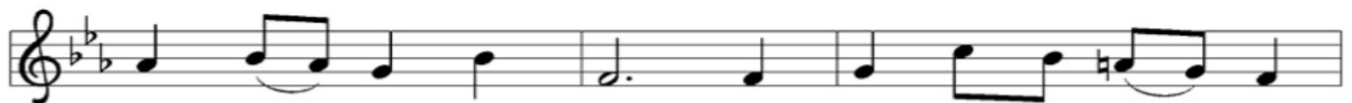
call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

# **Together We Say What We Believe**

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**



# We Offer Our Prayers and Thanksgiving

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each intercessory prayer the Pastor says:  
"Merciful God," and the people respond  
"receive our prayer."

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL:** 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**

## OFFERING SONG

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God, above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.



## OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand  
abundance springs up from the earth.  
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.  
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love  
and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**AMEN**

*Offering Plates are Located by the doors to the Sanctuary or  
You may mail your financial gifts to the church.*

*Attn: Pat Hogan*

*5615 Palmyra Rd SW, Lordstown 44481*

## Going Forth to Serve

## BLESSING

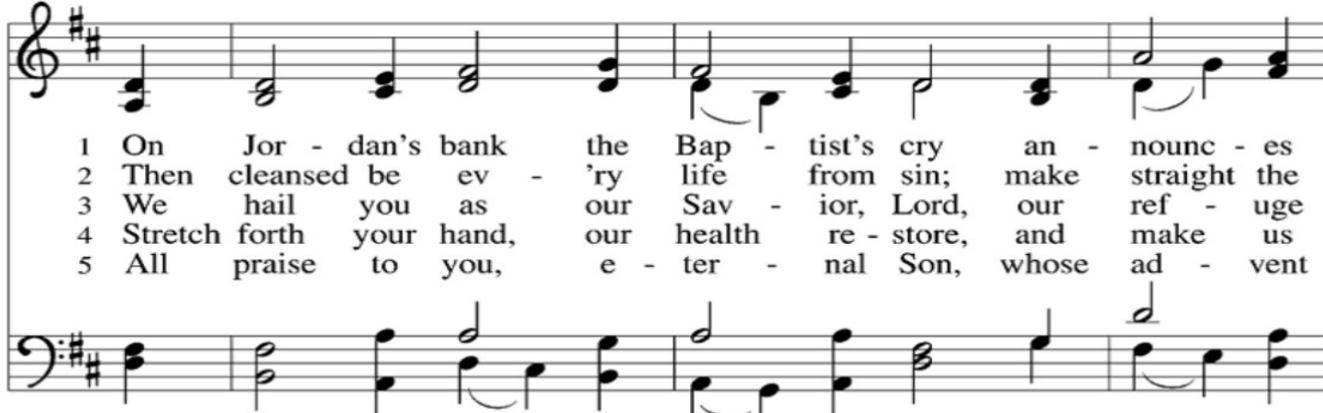
L: The God of peace bless you,  
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,  
and the anointing of the Spirit† remain upon you  
now and forever.

**AMEN**

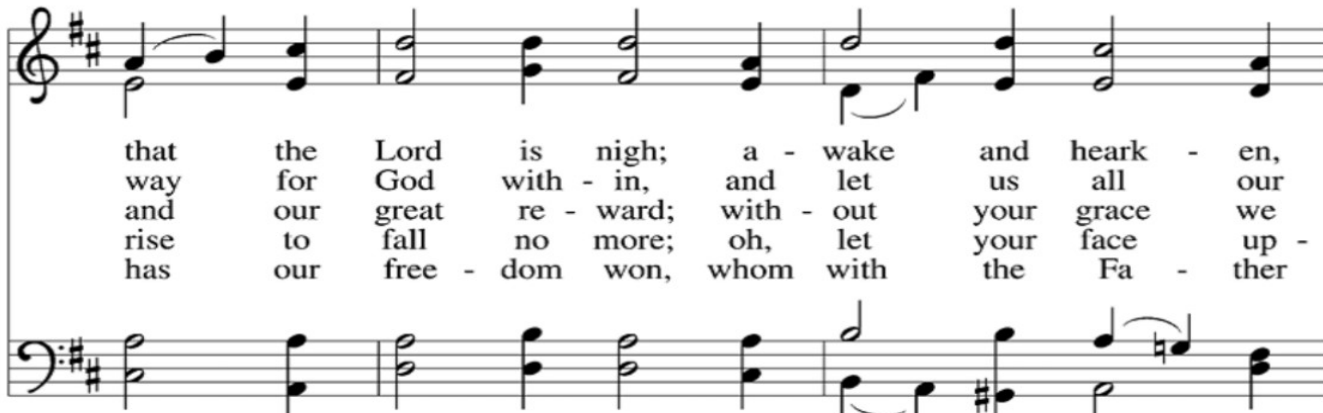
# SENDING HYMN ALL VS

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

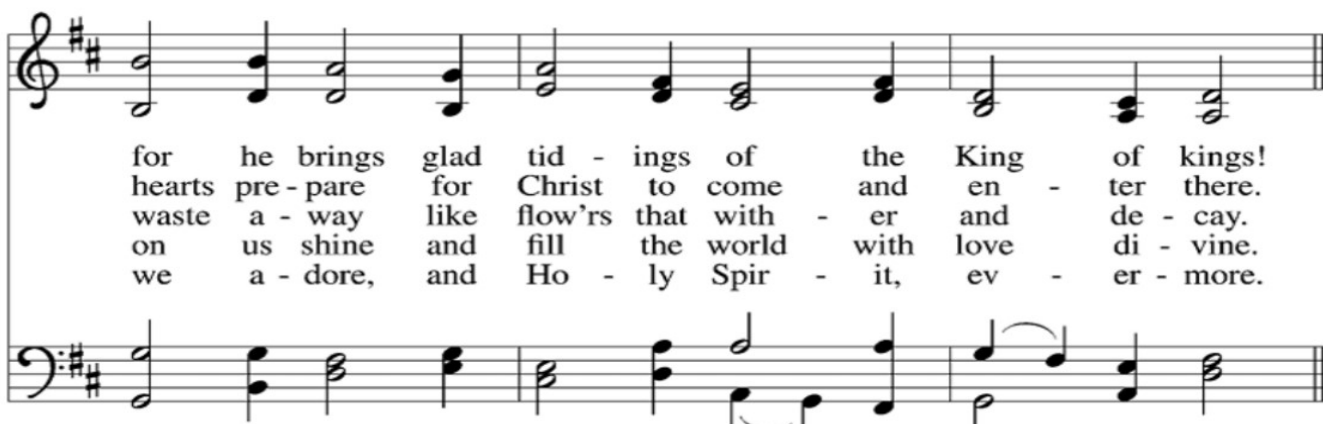
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1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake

ALL: Thanks be to God.





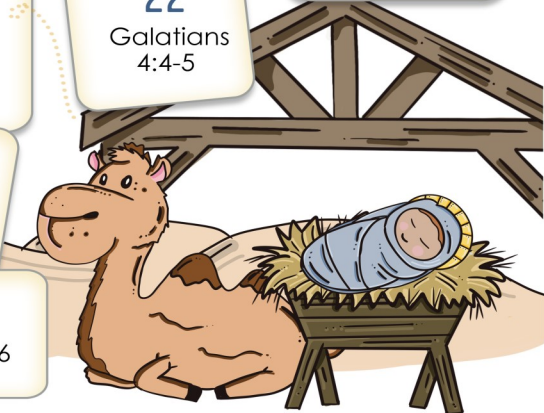
## POSTLUDE



# A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN



Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**

1 Isaiah 7:14 	2 Isaiah 9:6-7	3 Malachi 3:1	4 Micah 5:2-4	5 Luke 1:5-7	6 Luke 1:10-15	7 Luke 1:18-22	8 Luke 1:24-25
14 Luke 2:15-20	13 Luke 2:8-14	12 Luke 2:6-7	11 Luke 2:1-5	10 Luke 1:30-33	9 Luke 1:26-29		
15 Matthew 1:18-21	16 Matthew 1:22-25	17 Matthew 2:1-3	18 Matthew 2:4-6	19 Matthew 2:7-9	20 Matthew 2:10-12	21 Romans 15:13	
				23 Philippians 2:8-11	22 Galatians 4:4-5		
				24 James 1:16-18			
				25 John 3:16			



## **Altar Flowers**

### **Donated by an Anonymous Donor**

To provide altar flowers for worship, please sign up on the poster in the church lobby. \$25 for one vase \$50 for two.



## **PRAYER LIST & PASTORAL CONCERNS**

**Please keep our loved ones in your prayers this week**

**Immediate & Ongoing Health Concerns:** Lucas Paxson, Ron Hill, Phyllis Housel, Jean Housel, Ted Paxson, Leo Divencenzo, Tiffany Fellows, Destiny Givens, Anna Strickland, JoAnn Leepard, Joe Harrison, Molly and Family, Mary Sabol, Mark Molnar, Laura Paxson, Rachael Ann, Ilona Rupnik, Harvey Lutz Jr.

**Compassion Child:** Marc Yvans.

**Active Duty Military:** Julian Krusely, Jason Layfield, Talon Brown, Kiana Gates

**Scout Troop 20 and its leaders**

**Our Monthly Mission Outreach and The Children of Lordstown Elementary School**

**World Peace:** Especially for those living in the region of Ukraine and Russia.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 330 399-7227 OR  
EMAIL US AT LTOWNLUTHERAN@YAHOO.COM TO NOTIFY US OF FRIENDS OR  
RELATIVES WHO NEED TO BE ADDED OR REMOVED FROM THE PRAYER LIST.

**NEXT SUNDAY, Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

**Psalm: Psalm 126**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**