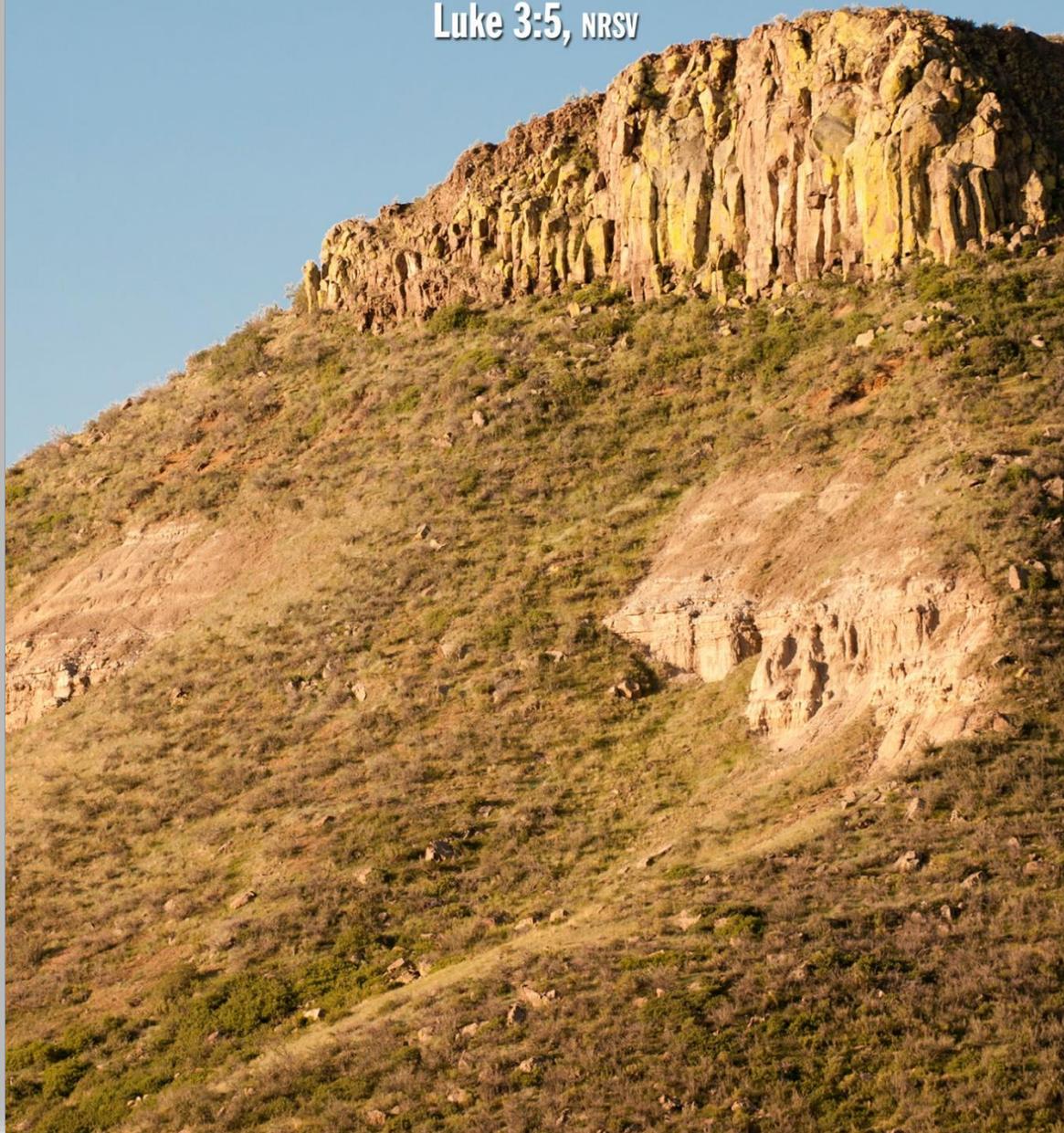


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

Every VALLEY shall be filled ...
every MOUNTAIN and HILL shall be made low ...
the CROOKED shall be made straight ...
the ROUGH ways made smooth ...

Luke 3:5, NRSV



Advent 2

December 5, 2021



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@wctatel.net)

Bill Peters

(#590-0727 – cell; email baldwins@wctatel.net)

Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist>

Advent 2

December 5, 2021

COME, BABY JESUS!

We joyfully welcome all who join us this morning as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth and anticipate our Lord's promised and glorious return. A special welcome to all guests and visitors. John the Baptist prepared us for a baby, now we must prepare the world for a King.

COME, LORD AND KING!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Advent calls us to prepare for the birth of Jesus – Emmanuel – God with us..

Are we prepared?

God is coming.

How do we prepare for such a great event?

We begin by smoothing out the rough places in our hearts.

And by guiding our feet in the way of peace.

Today is the second Sunday in Advent - the time when we prepare once again for the coming of Jesus.

We light a candle each week to remind us that Jesus brings light into the dark places of the world.

God promises a messenger to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord.

We wait in faith for this promise to be fulfilled.

We light the candle

...of hope to proclaim that God's light is coming into the world.

A candle is lit

We light the candle

...of peace to proclaim that God's promises will be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ -Prince of Peace.

A candle is lit

Faithful God, we thank you for choosing to fulfill your promise of a Savior in the wonderful, yet so natural way of entering our world as a baby.

May the preparations we make for Jesus' birth be pleasing to you.

*ADVENT PRAYER

All-powerful God, we praise you for choosing to save the world by becoming one of us - by taking on the flesh of a vulnerable baby. Through this act of pure love, you dissolved the boundaries between heaven and earth and between divinity and humanity.

We pray that our response to such blessings and grace may be evident in the manner in which we worship, witness and serve you in Jesus' name. Amen

***CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we bring before you these things in our worship and in our lives which cause you pain.

Straighten out the areas in our lives which hinder people from discerning your way, O God and smooth any rough edges of our witness so that whatever prevents people hearing your word is cleared away.

Time of silence

Many people walk through shadowed valleys at this time, weighed down by painful, recycled memories. When we fail to become involved with the needs of others by pleading seasonal busy-ness,

Forgive us.

Advent God, you call on us to prepare the way for Jesus' birth and yet - each year it seems that we spend more time making preparations for our own pleasure rather than preparing for Jesus to be born anew in our hearts and lives - in our families, our communities, our nation, our world. When our involvement with partying, buying gifts, ordering food, writing cards, leaves us with no energy left to celebrate the reason for such activity - the birth of Jesus Christ,

Forgive us

Help us, O God, to prepare ourselves faithfully and sincerely to receive the Christ-child.

Amen

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

The apostle Paul prayed that our love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help us determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ we may be pure and blameless. Jesus Christ was sent by God into the world, not to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

“Joy to the World”

39

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

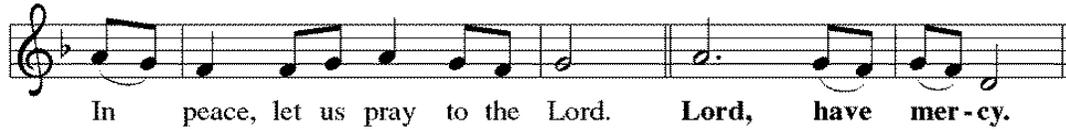
***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

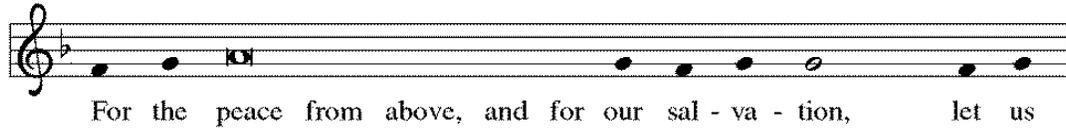
And also with you.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***KYRIE**



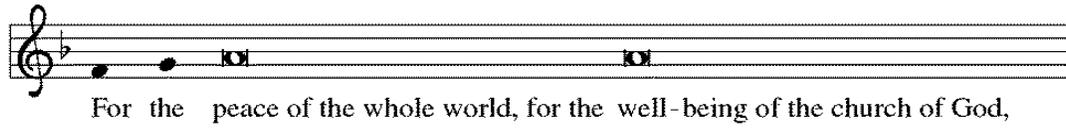
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



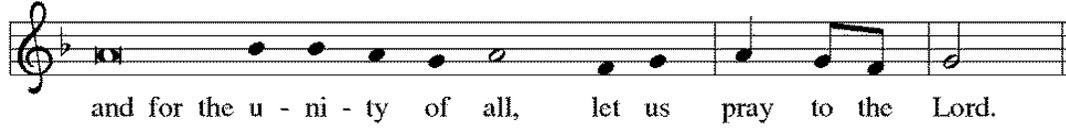
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



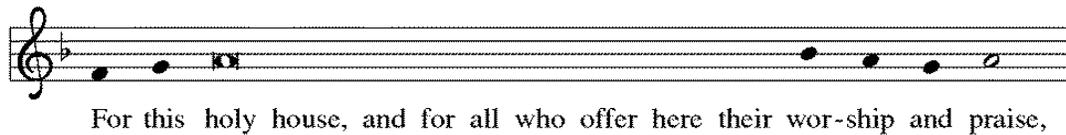
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



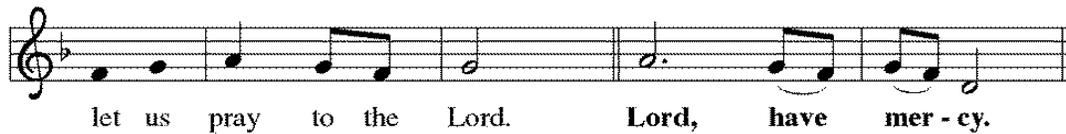
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

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

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

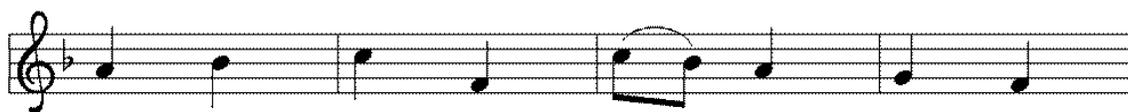
Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

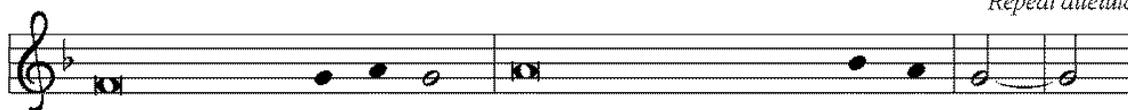
³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation



Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

⁴Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

Pastor Randy Baldwin

*SONG OF THE DAY

"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

vss. 1-4

36

*On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.*

*We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.*

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

*PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

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

✠ **MEAL** ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

DISTRIBUTION

***BLESSING**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate
 where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
 the cross be borne for me, for you;
 hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 come, peasant, king, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 the virgin sings her lullaby;
 joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 the babe, the son of Mary!*

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

*** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).

Postlude



*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
 Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20852.*

Life in the Wilderness

The American Red Cross offers a training called Wilderness and Remote First Aid, during which participants learn skills to be used in case of emergencies such as low blood sugar, hypothermia, and burns when professional help is unavailable or far away. For someone experiencing a health crisis in a wilderness setting, a companion with remote first aid skills can be lifesaving.

When Luke introduces John the Baptist in today’s gospel, readers are told that the word of God came to John in the wilderness. The wilderness mentioned here brings to mind a place that is remote, sparsely populated, and rugged. Yet there is a sense of another wilderness being illuminated here as well—the wilderness of a messy world where some have wealth and status while others experience food insecurity, injustice, and homelessness.

It is into this wilderness that John the Baptist proclaims that one is coming through whom “all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6). Luke’s intentional listing of all the authorities in power (vv. 1-2) indicates that he wants readers to know just how different John the Baptist and, more importantly, the one he proclaims are from the rulers of the day.

People were drawn to the message John proclaimed, yet throughout his ministry John was clear that it wasn’t about him or his personal agenda but rather the work of God through him. He pointed to the Promised One and to the salvation Jesus offers. Like Jesus, John proclaimed a message that extended to the vulnerable and spoke of caring for our neighbors.

Similarly, as followers of Christ, we are commissioned to go into the wilderness, to bring good news to the little and the least, and to proclaim the work of God in our lives, through both our actions and our words. As we do, we bear witness to the promise that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the one who leads us from death to life.