

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

**“The voice of
one crying out in
the wilderness:
‘Prepare the
way of the Lord,
make his
paths
straight.’”**

Matthew 3:3



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” and “bear fruit worthy of repentance” cries John the Baptist to those people long ago from Judea and Jerusalem. He was preparing the people to receive the one more powerful than he - the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire - Jesus Christ. He confronts us as we also make preparations to receive Jesus. He addresses these same words to us. “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” and “bear fruit worthy of repentance” How would we respond - both personally and as this faith community?

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place.

Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to you

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, we turn towards you as flowers turn towards the sun and we produce fruit shaped by this attitude of our hearts and our lives. Yet we can be so driven by seasonal busy-ness that our fruitfulness suffers.

Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to you.

Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents us from rooting our lives firmly in you; so that our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you;

As we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who does wondrous things. The most wondrous of all being God's entry into our world in Jesus Christ, “not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” “Those who believe in him are not condemned.”

Thanks be to God!

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Today - the second Sunday in Advent - we hear about Isaiah's vision of a new and transformed world.

A world where all creatures live together in harmony and peace.

We wait with hope for this vision to become reality.

The God of hope fills us with joy and peace in believing. We light the candle of hope.

First candle is relit

We proclaim our belief in God's faithfulness in keeping promises, as we light the candle of peace.

Second candle is lit .

***GATHERING SONG** *"The King Shall Come"*

vss. 1-2 # 260

*The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.*

*Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.*

***ADVENT PRAYER**

God of all faithfulness - Isaiah's vision paints a picture of a world shaped in accordance with your will and your design. He tells of One so enlightened by your Spirit that he would open eyes and ears and hearts to a new understanding of your will and your design for the world. Isaiah described the one for whom the people waited - the Messiah. We wait also, but we wait in the joyful knowledge that the Messiah has come in the form of your beloved Son. We wait in faith, praying that through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus - Prince of Peace.

We will be born anew in our hearts and in our lives. Amen

***GATHERING SONG** *"The King Shall Come"*

vss. 3-4 # 260

*Oh, brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.*

*Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.*

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

***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**

***ADVENT LITANY**

Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord

That we may walk in the paths of the Lord.

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

A root shall come out from the stump of Jesse.

And a branch shall grow out of its roots.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad

The desert shall rejoice and blossom.

The dead are raised,

And the poor have good news brought to them.

Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."

Prepare the way of the Lord,

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

That you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

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

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you

to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

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

***NICENE CREED**

**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 THE COMMUNITY**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

...God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

✠ **MEAL** ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY SONG** “*Let the Vineyards*”

ELW # 184

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
 and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
 Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
 that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
 unite them with the prayers we offer.
 Grace our table with your presence,
 and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

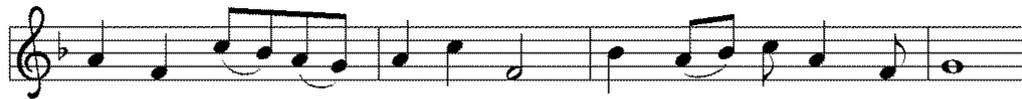
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

*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 Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!*

*God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain*

*Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: Refrain*

*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*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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***DISMISSAL**

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

Postlude



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An Impossible Vision?

Today's image from the Old Testament reading of a world at peace—a peace so full and universal that it extends to every living creature—may feel as comforting as it does unbelievable, at least by our logic (Isaiah 11:1-10). Wolves and lambs aren't friends. Lions don't eat straw. Children should not play with snakes. In the animal kingdom—and *we are animals*—there are predators and prey. Whether we take it literally or metaphorically, "Eat or *be* eaten" is how we've been taught to survive in the wilderness.

And yet here, on this wilderness morning, we hear the prophet telling us that it does not have to be this way—indeed, that it *will* not be this way forever. In the new world God is coming to bring, we won't need to tear each other apart just to survive. Somehow we will be able to live together in peace.

No wonder that of all the ways God could have revealed the depths of holy love and brought reconciliation to the world, God chose to come as a little child, a child no one thought possible, a branch from a tree that was seemingly long dead.

Beholding this child moves us to repentance, turning us from all the ways we demonize and hurt each other, and calling us instead to offer peace. Rather than taking the bait set to keep us fighting, we come together to eat the bread and drink from the cup set at the Lord's table.

In the new creation, our identity is no longer defined by our lineage or status, as those who came to be baptized by John imagined, or by being enemies, prey, or predator. Instead, in Christ's baptismal waters we are given a new life as beloved kin. With God all things are possible!