## Second Sunday of Advent

## ~ December 8, 2024 ~~ St. John’s & St. Peter’s

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath “*Waiting, Preparation, Joy, Light*”**

Advent is a time of waiting. We light the first candle to remind us that

we are waiting for God to come. **First candle is lit.**

Advent is also a time of preparation. We decorate, shop, and bake to get

ready for Christmas.

We also prepare ourselves for Jesus to come, by reading his story, by

praying and singing, and by sharing with others.

We light the second candle to remind us to prepare. **The second candle is lit.**

From Mark 1: “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son

of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my

messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way; the voice of one

crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord make his paths

straight.’”

Let us pray: God of peace, we look forward to the time when the earth is

full of your glory, when righteousness is at home and peace reigns in all

the world, May we prepare for that day by working together for justice

and peace. Amen.

## Confession and Forgiveness ELW pg. 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn *“Prepare the Royal Highway”*** ELW #264

Vs. 1 Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near!
 Let every 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!***

Vs. 2 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]***

Vs. 3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king;
 your king, yet every nation its tribute too may bring.
 All lands, bow down before him; their voices, join your singing:

 ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heaven above.
 His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
 So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: ***[Refrain]***

 **Greeting** ELW pg. 138

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

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie** ELW pg. 138

 P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

 P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

 ***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** ELW pg. 138Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

 **Prayer of the Day**

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.

**First 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.

**Psalm: Luke 1:68-79**

68Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

**69You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

70Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, 71from the hands of all who hate us,

**72to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.**

73This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: 74to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear, 75holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

76And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**77to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

78In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**79to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

**Second Lesson: 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.

**Gospel:** **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.*

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: 'Prepare 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.'"

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”***  ELW #249

Vs. 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces

 that the Lord is nigh; awake and harken,

 for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Vs. 2 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.

Vs. 3 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.

Vs. 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us

 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up-

 on us shine and fill the world with love divine.

Vs. 5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent

 has our freedom won, whom with the Father

 we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

**Apostles’ Creed** ELW pg. 105

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.

**Prayers of the People**

 **“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle the fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in need. Heal all who are suffering especially

Provide comfort and strength and nurture sustained wholeness for future. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the please of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** LBW #410ELW #686

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus, Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** ELW pg. 145

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*** ELW #631

Vs. 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to

 earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy

 faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion,
 pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with

 thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Vs. 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry

 troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us

 find thy promised rest. Take away the love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as

 its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Vs. 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy

 life receive; suddenly return, and never, never-

 more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing,
 serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee

 without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Vs. 4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless

 let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfect-

 ly restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory,
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

 crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

***C: Thanks be to God!***

***TURN MIC OFF!!***

**Postlude**