



**Faith Lutheran Church**

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ***

**December 8, 2019**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

# **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
the parent who rouses us from slumber,  
the shepherd who gathers us on the  
holy mountain, the deliverer who sets  
us free.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us come before the living God in confession (*A brief silence.*)

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation:

**C: we open our hearts to you, O God.  
Search us and know us. Reveal all  
that we keep inside.**

**To you, O God, we confess our sins,  
known and unknown. Forgive us,  
renew us, and lead us in your ways of  
justice and peace. Make us reflections  
of the radiant love of your beloved Son,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**P:** Beloved children of the Most High,  
you are gathered before the righteous  
judge who has mercy on all. Splash  
exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where  
sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell  
peacefully in the loving arms of the one who  
nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the  
assurance that your sins are forgiven in the  
name of the one who is coming and is  
already here + Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**



# **OPENING HYMN**

***“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”***

**"Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.**

**For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.**



**Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.**

**Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.**

**For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.**

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.**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

THE SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT:

PEACE



LIGHTING  
OF THE  
SECOND  
ADVENT  
CANDLE

# 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of "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



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!



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



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray. (*A brief silence.*)

**C:** **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.**

# Children's Church

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## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah, the 11<sup>TH</sup> chapter.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The 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. His 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; but 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. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The

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. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They 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. On 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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## **A Responsive Reading From Psalm 72**

**R:** Give the king your justice, O God, and  
your righteousness to the king's son;

**C:** **that he may rule your people  
righteously and the poor with justice;**

R: that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**C: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

R: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another

**C: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

R: In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace  
till the moon shall be no more.

**C: Blessed are you, Lord God, the God  
of Israel; you alone do wondrous  
deeds!**

R: And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

**C: Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

A reading from Romans, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Whatever 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. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another,



in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For 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, and in

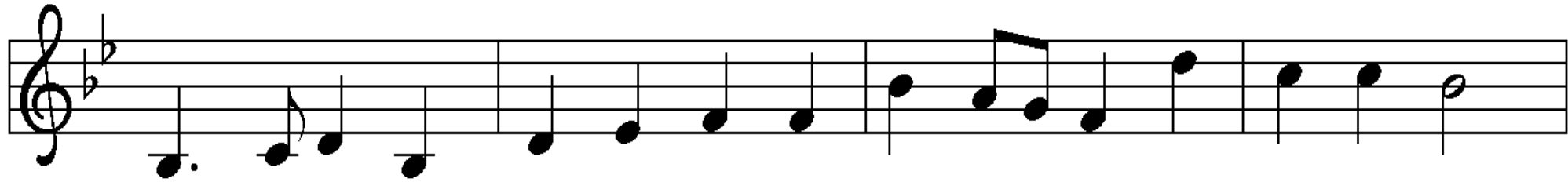
order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the

Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”  
May 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.

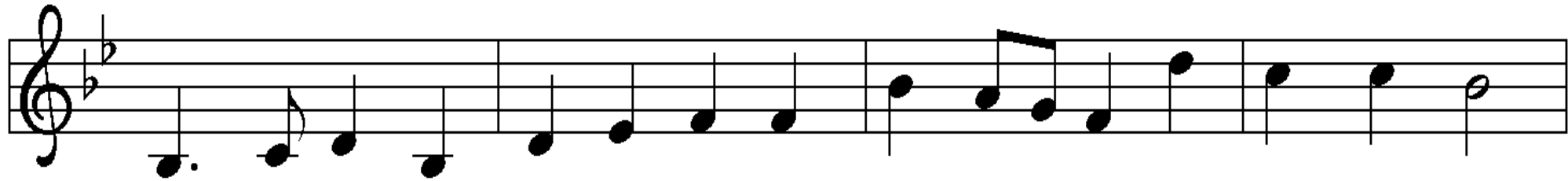
R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# ALLELUIA



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

**P:** The holy gospel according to Matthew,  
the 3rd chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This 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.' ”

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But 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? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do 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. Even 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. “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. His 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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

*“Voices from the Wilderness”*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

***“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”***

**On Jordan's bank 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.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

# **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 INTERCESSION

P: Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. (*A brief silence*). God of promise, your reign has come near. Call your people to the way of repentance and inspire your church to bear fruit in the world through acts of faithful service. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**



P: God of creation, we pray for the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and all species whose lives are intertwined. Repair and preserve ecosystems (here local examples may be named), that all life on earth may be sustained. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: God of the nations, teach those with power and privilege to serve the vulnerable. Give to all leaders wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and a heart of compassion for the world you so love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: God of the poor, set tables of abundance in all places where hands are empty, where stomachs ache with hunger, and where hearts and minds suffer pain. Feed and heal all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: God of hope, renew in your people all joy and peace in believing, especially those facing anxiety, depression, or alienation. Guide this community of faith to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: God of eternal life, you promise to take away our sin and gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors on earth, freed from pain and the power of death (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**P:** You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord.  
Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in  
each day and hour we may love and  
serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**



## **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

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

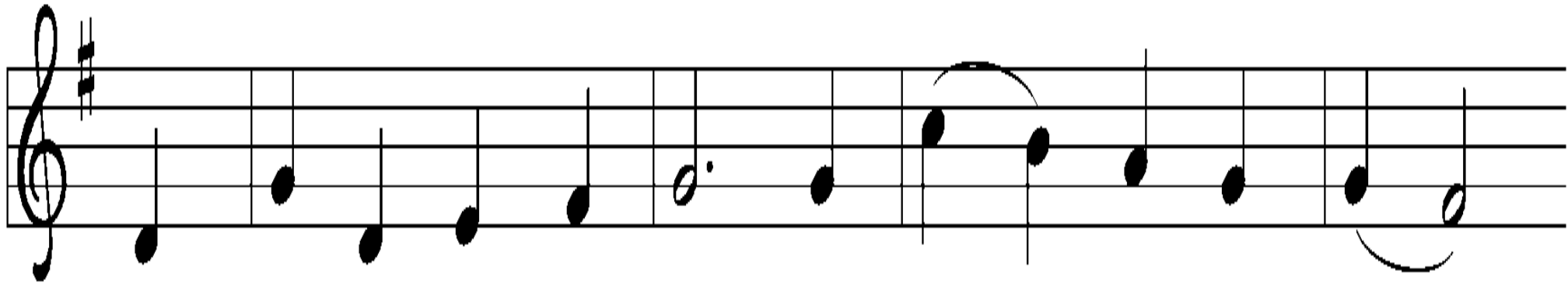
**OFFERING**

**~VIDEO DURING OFFERING ~**

***“Go Tell”***

**by The Martins**

## Offertory Response



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

# OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# DIALOGUE

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 and praise to the  
Lord our God.

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

# *WORDS OF INSTITUTION*



# ***THE LORD'S PRAYER***

**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*

# **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you  
with grace and mercy. The Lord look  
upon you with favor and + give you  
peace.

**C: Amen.**

# **CLOSING HYMN**

***“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”***

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.**

**The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.**

**Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.**



**The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.**

**Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!**

# DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

