



Faith Lutheran Church

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

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2016**



PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C: Amen.



P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. (A brief silence.) God of all time,

C: **We confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.**



In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.



P: Comfort, o comfort my people, says your
God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are
forgiven and all things are made new.
Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen.



OPENING HYMN “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.**



**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**



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

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 light of Christ's coming. 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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.



Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen



ADVENT HYMN, LIGHTING OF SECOND CANDLE



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.



Refrain
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.)

ALL: 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



FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah, the 11th 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!



PSALM: Psalm 72 ~ A Responsive Reading

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 15th 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 accord 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.**



THE 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: As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need. (A brief silence.) For the church throughout the world, for all inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, and for all who proclaim the wondrous deeds of God; that all divisions and disagreements cease, let us pray.



C: Have mercy, O God

P: For the earth and its creatures, for animals of every size, for plants that provide shade and nourishment; that we see God's goodness revealed in every living thing, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God



P: For the nations and those in authority, for police officers and firefighters, for social workers and attorneys; that God grant them wisdom to work for peace and justice, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.



P: For the poor, the meek, the unwelcomed, those suffering from malaria and HIV/AIDS, the sick and the bereaved (*especially*); that they experience Christ embodied in healthcare workers and caregivers, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God



P: For those traveling and those absent from this gathering, for those serving in the military, for those preparing for baptism, and for our congregation; that in all we do we praise and glorify God, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God



P: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who have died in Christ that they show us the way of hope through the incarnate Word, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God



P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

C: Amen



SHARING PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

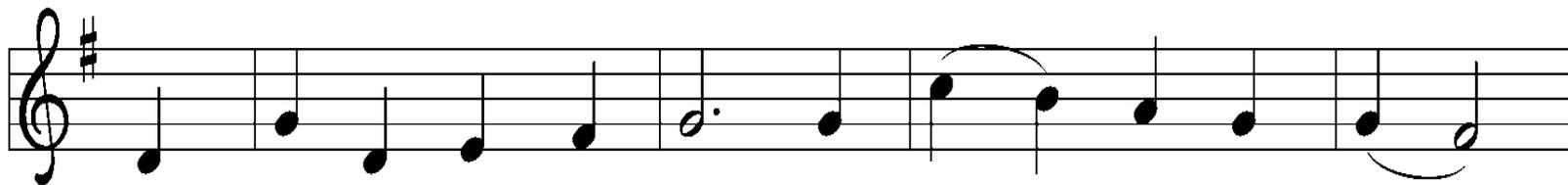
C: And also with you.



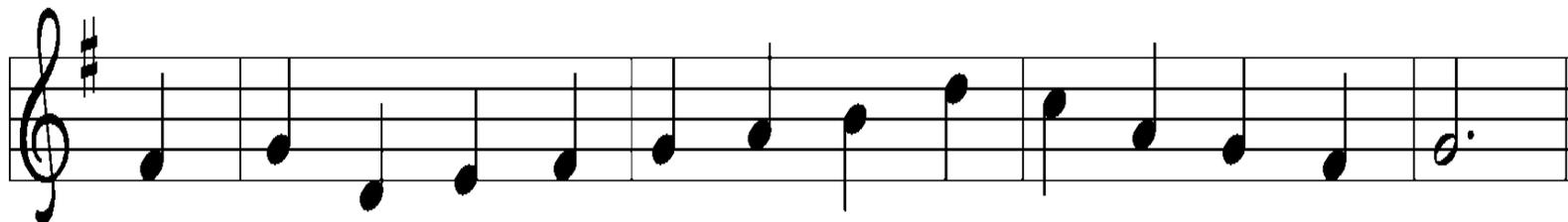
~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~



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: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith may shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

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: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen



BLESSING

P: May Christ the Sun of righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen



CLOSING HYMN “Prepare the Royal Highway”

**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

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



**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

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



**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

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



DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**























































