



Faith Lutheran Church

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

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018**



PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



P: Blessed by the Holy Trinity, + one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

C: Amen.



P: Let us come before God in confession.
To you, O God,

C: **we lift up our souls. You know us through
and through; we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins; remember us with
your steadfast love. Show us your ways;
teach us your path; and lead us in justice
and truth, for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**



OPENING 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!*



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: 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 Lord Jesus 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 the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

C: Amen.



Lighting of the 2nd Advent 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. Re - jice! Re - jice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.



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 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

A reading from Malachi, the 3rd chapter.

See, 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.



But 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; he 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.



R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading From Luke, the 1st chapter

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

C: You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.



R: Through your holy prophets, you promised
of old to save us from our enemies, from
the hands of all who hate us,
C: to show mercy to our forebears, and to
remember your holy covenant.



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

C: free to worship you without fear, holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.



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

C: to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.



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



SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians, the 1st chapter.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I 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.



It 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. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.



And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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: Luke 3:1-6

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

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

In 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,



during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as 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.



Every 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; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON

"Prophetic Preparation"



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 await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation. (*A brief silence.*) Prepare your church to share the good news, life-giving God. Put your word within us and dwell among us. Send us out to proclaim the mercy and salvation that abides in you.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: Protect the creation, life-giving God.
Sustain the mountains and hills. Restore the
rivers. Give us wisdom and compassion to
care for wilderness areas and urban
ecosystems. Move us to care for your
creation in all its forms and richness.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: Purify the hearts of all people, life-giving God. Remove the hate that lives within us and among us. Mold us into peacemakers. Raise up leaders rooted in your love and fed by your word.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: Comfort all who hurt, life-giving God.
Wrap them in your tender care. Remember
the forgotten and send us out to share your
love with them. Be with the wandering,
the worried, and the woeful (*especially*).
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: Bless this congregation, life-giving God.
Give strength and joy to worship leaders,
musicians, and our altar guild as they
prepare the way for the celebration of the
Christ child's coming among us.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: We remember the generations who have shown us your faithfulness, life-giving God. Shine your light on those who mourn and prepare us for that day when we will see you face-to-face.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.



P: Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



SHARING PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

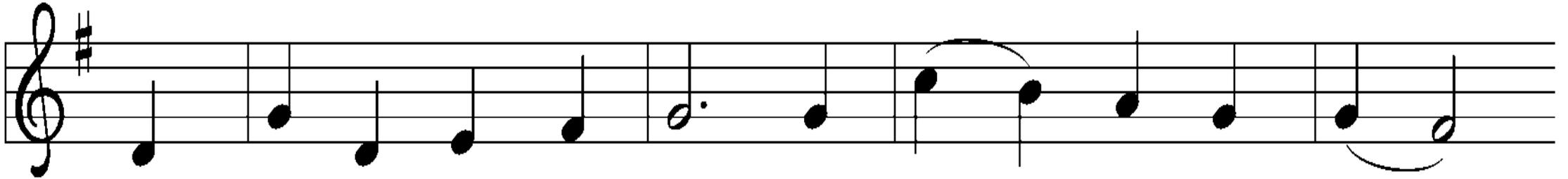


~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

***“Mary Did You Know?”* by Pentatonix**



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: 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: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.



BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and
Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

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. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.



















































