

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025; 9 a.m.



St John's
Lutheran Church

(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

(Acolytes light the candles)

Linda Ranney

Gathering Litany

(Presider and Acolyte stand at the font)

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear.

We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutual support and liberation.

We live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes.

We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, so we can be still and rest.

We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth.

We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.

We live in a world that is broken and hurting.

We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people.

God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and reverent trembling in your presence. Reveal to us that our stories are woven together, that we will be healed and whole when all people are fed and free. Gather us together in the shelter of your righteousness.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn *(please stand)*

(Acolyte retrieves flame from the Paschal candle and lights two candles at the Advent wreath)

ELW #240; *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* vs. 1-2

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
 let the light banish darkness.
 He shall bring salvation to Israel,
 God fulfills the promise.

- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
 let the light banish darkness.
 He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
 gently lead them homeward.

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.

Kyrie

'Kyrie' from *Now the Feast and Celebration* by Marty Haugen

P: In peace. in peace, . . .

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

P: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to refrain)

P: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word . . . (to refrain)

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

Canticle of Praise

'Now The Feast' vs. 1, 3 from *Now the Feast and Celebration* by Marty Haugen

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of
God; to make all things new.

Refrain

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.**

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 *(please sit)*

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² 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.
- ³ 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,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed 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.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ 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.
- ¹⁰ 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ 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. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ 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 ancestors ⁹ and 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”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

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

¹² and again Isaiah says,

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

¹³ 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

'Alleluia' from *Now the Feast and Celebration* by Marty Haugen

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ 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.' "

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

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and 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. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *(please sit)*

“Nurturing a Dead Stump” Pastor Christine Emerson

Hymn of the Day *(please stand)*

ELW #272; *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* vs. 1-3

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
 from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming
 as seers of old have sung,
 it came, a flow'r so bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 when half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it,
 the rose I have in mind;
 with Mary we behold it,
 the virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright,
 she bore to us a Savior,
 when half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
 with sweetness fills the air,
 dispels with glorious splendor
 the darkness everywhere.
 True man, yet very God,
 from sin and death he saves us
 and lightens ev'ry load.

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 the People

Petition: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

Offering

(Ushers take up the collection)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People arr. Tom Trenney

St. John's Choir

Offertory *(please stand)*

(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)

ELW #253; *He Came Down* vs. 1, 3

- 1 He came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have love;
 hallelujah forevermore.

- 3 He came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have peace;
 hallelujah forevermore.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The musical score is written for a Presider and a Congregation in 4/4 time, key of D major (indicated by four sharps). The lyrics are distributed across four staves. The first staff shows the Presider singing "The Lord be with you." and the Congregation responding "And al-so with you." The second staff shows the Presider singing "Lift up your hearts." and the Congregation responding "We lift them to the Lord." The third staff shows the Presider singing "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." and the Congregation responding "It is". The fourth staff shows the Presider singing "right to give God thanks and praise." and the Congregation responding with a final note.

Presider: *Congregation:*

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

Presider: *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff begins with a 6/8 time signature. The second staff contains a 3/8 time signature. The third staff contains a 6/8 time signature. The fourth and fifth staves continue the melody. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

(Acolytes prepare for communion distribution; ushers come forward to invite assembly by pew. Greeters will guide those wishing to receive at the altar: stop at credence table for a cup, then walk up side steps into the chancel)

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.


Lamb of God

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*




Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



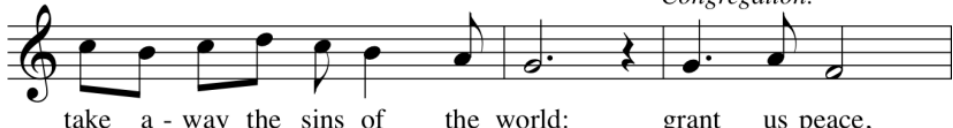
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.

Final Stanza
Congregation or Assistant:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Communion Hymn

ELW #487; *What Feast of Love*

- 1 What feast of love is offered here,
 what banquet come from heaven?
 What food of everlasting life,
 what gracious gift is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the bread come down from heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing!
 How sweet the manna given!
- 2 What light of truth is offered here,
 what covenant from heaven?
 What hope of everlasting life,

what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!

- 3 What wine of love is offered here,
 what crimson drink from heaven?
 What stream of everlasting life,
 what precious blood is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the sweetest wine of heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing!
 The Son of God is given!

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

Benediction

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

(Acolytes extinguish the candles)

ELW #239; *Hark The Glad Sound* vs. 1-3

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
 the Savior promised long;

- let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Sending

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Linda Ranney

Altar & Chancel Flowers

Given by the Putnams and Spryers: "Honoring those feeling the loss of someone they loved"

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Eric Nielsen
Lector	Pam Sorebo
Acolytes	Elise Wallin, Gwyneth Wallin
Ushers	Ron Norby, Randy Lundblad
Greeters	Larry Krause, Penny Erickson
Communion Servers	Cheryl Mattison, Ruth Lundblad, Penny Erickson, Cheryl Stage
Media & Streaming	Brett Issacson
Screen Operator	Scott Olsen
Musicians	Linda Ranney, piano/organ; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir

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