

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

What Are You Hoping For?

December 7 & 8, 2019

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

The Advent season has an expectation not only of the coming Christmas celebration, but of the end of this fallen world and the remaking of creation. What do you hope will happen then? According to Paul, in today's Epistle, when the Messiah returns, the world will live without conflict. God certainly helps us in the Church to live in harmony with one another, but we must, as John the Baptist cried, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." But by ourselves we cannot do that, we cannot hope for any change. Our only hope is in Jesus Christ, who is glorified in the Church with one voice. Hope in Him!

WELCOME

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. (Isaiah 64:4, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN #357 **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** Stanzas 1-4

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming

People: will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Pastor: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

People: so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Pastor: With the breath of His lips He shall kill the wicked.

People: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and a little child shall lead them.

Pastor: Blessed be His glorious name forever;

People: may the whole earth be filled with His glory!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: When John the Baptist was preparing people to meet the Messiah, he preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

People: We all should repent, for we have thought, spoken, and acted in divisive, sinful ways.

Pastor: John promised that the Messiah would "baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." It was the Spirit who worked faith in your hearts in Holy Baptism. Through the Word and Sacraments, our sins are forgiven, and we are given hope to amend our sinful lives and to look to our Lord's return at the end of all things. As a called and ordained servant of Christ I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Paul writes, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Isaiah wrote, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Jesus warned, "Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." Let us pray. O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

People: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

HYMN **“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”**

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word.
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
but there is room and welcome there for me, and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find Him as they said: sweet newborn babe, how frail!
And in a manger bed: a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled?
With pounding heart I stare: a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned its way into my heart –
unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me,
and not alone for me?

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Send your Holy Spirit to increase faith within us,
heavenly Father,

**People: so that we base our hope on what you have done for us, rather
than on the empty promises of this fallen world;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 11:1–10* (The prophet foresees a righteous branch coming in David’s family tree.) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and 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 of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf 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 cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 15:4–13* (Paul encourages Jews and Gentiles to live in hope and work toward harmony.) For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to 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 praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 3:1–12* (John the Baptist preaches bearing fruit in keeping with repentance.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to 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 he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. 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 gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #342 "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,
A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
The fruit of God's design.

As banner of God's love unfurled,
Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world
Would rally to the cross.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,
Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword –
Come, open heaven's door.

SERMON

"The Voice Still Cries: Repent!"

Matthew 3:1-12

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In the wilderness we cry to you, O Lord, to visit your people with your grace and give ear to our prayers and answer us as you have promised.

Brief silence

Pastor: O Lord, the silence was once broken by the voice of the prophet preparing your way. Give to your people the courage to speak Christ to the nations and share with those still in the darkness about His gift of light and life.

People: Keep us from being ashamed of the Gospel or intimidated by our fears of what others may think.

Pastor: O Lord, as you raised up blessed John, the forerunner of Christ, so raise up for us pastors who will preach your Word and serve us with your Sacraments. Give to us faithful church workers who will work among us for your grace and glory. Strengthen the Ferry family and Rachel Meyer as they serve in faraway places.

People: Bless those in college and seminary preparing for church work, and help young people hear and discern your call.

Pastor: O Lord, the crowds who heard the preaching of St. John came in repentance of sin and faith in your promises.

People: Lead us to hear and heed the call to repentance in our day, that we may rejoice in the forgiveness of sins and seek to live as your holy people.

Pastor: O Lord, the rulers of the world stood condemned by your servant John. Give us the will and courage to stand for what is good and right and true. Give to us honest leaders of integrity who will govern with equity, preserving order and pursuing justice.

People: Protect and defend those least able to care for themselves, those in the womb and those with frail mind or body. Bless also those who protect and defend us.

Pastor: O Lord, St. John spoke the promise of healing to the broken and wounded. Give to all afflicted in body or mind the riches of your grace, healing according to your will, and grace to carry them through the day of their trouble. We pray especially for Dorothy, Marlene, Don, June, John, Arlene, Jerry, Judi, Nancy, Robert, Jonathan, Steve, Sharon, Bette, Nathan, Shirley, Mary, Cindy, Bill, Katie, Dolores, Russ, Herb, Sarah, Marge, Gladys, Shirley, Sarah and for those we -name in our hearts.

People: Comfort them with your promises and your abiding presence.

Pastor: O Lord, your people shed tears of sorrow and loss in the face of death. Give to us confidence in the resurrection of Christ and our own resurrection on the last day. Bless especially Judy and family as they remember Howie.

People: Comfort us in our grief and bless the dying with peace at the last, until in the day of Christ's coming we are reunited with those who have gone before us.

Pastor: O Lord, we thank you for the gift of family especially at this holy time of the year. Bless families to love and cherish each other. Heal hurts and bring peace and harmony to those who struggle.

People: We rejoice also with Pam and Dalen as they celebrate 40 years of life together. Bless them and all couples to graciously live together in love.

Pastor: O Lord, by your gracious favor we have been given a place at the table of your Son to eat His body and drink His blood as His Word promises.

People: Keep us in your grace, lest our sins prevent us from knowing with clear conscience the full joy the blessings of this communion which brings forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Pastor: O Lord, we were once aliens and strangers to your grace and purpose. As once your Son gave welcome to many, so teach us to give welcome to all people in His name.

People: Open our hearts to be people of love, and open our mouths to speak in witness to your saving words and works.

Pastor: O Lord, grant to us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful to us and to our salvation, that we may with confidence speak the "amen" to our prayers and live in contentment and peace knowing you will hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Tune: LSB 361 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Lord Jesus, holy Lamb of God, You take our sins away;

Lord Jesus, holy Lamb of God, You take our sins away.

We who are gathered here now Ask peace for all the earth;

Grant Christmas peace to one and all, And heav'nly joy and mirth.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #620 "Jesus Comes Today With Healing"

Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace. He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation: "Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament, Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me, Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given, Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'nly power, Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign. On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing That I taste His love divine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call. Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me, Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry tremor,
Cleanses me from sin and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.

HYMN #400 "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dew-drops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

HYMN #338 "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.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we ask that through it, O God of hope, you would fill us with all joy and peace in believing; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Paul prayed, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the + Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN #357 **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** Stanzas 5-7

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

Preacher
Liturgist
Children’s Message
Lectors
Acolytes
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Noah Kegley
Laurel Privatt
Jodi Drew, Laurel Privatt
Logan Rauter, Brooklyn Hoffman
Michelle Prince

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Advent Mid-Week Worship *“Signs of Salvation”*

December 11 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Grade 1-8 Christmas Program

*Advent Dinner served at 4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall:
Mexican Fiesta (Sr. High Fundraiser) Beef tacos, Mexican
rice, corn, refried beans, ice cream sundae bar, hot dogs,
carrots for kids.*