



**Second Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024**



OUR REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship

9:30AM

**Christian
Education**

11AM

WELCOME to Our Redeemer and our hour of worship

The closer we get to Christmas, the greater the pressure! There is so much to get done – the decorations, the food, the gifts! What a welcome relief to hear what is really needed for Christmas, only repentance.

John the Baptist as he prepared for Christ's coming ... went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

For parents with Small Children

There is a children's bulletin available in the basket together with the service folders as you enter. Please pick one up. If necessary, rest rooms and a video monitor for watching the service are in the fellowship hall. Go to your left as you walk out of the worship area, through the double doors.

+ + The Common Service + +

OPENING HYMN – There's a Voice in the Wilderness

CW13

**1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
A call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
A highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
The lofty hills brought low;
Make straight all the crooked places
Where the Lord our God may go!**

**2 O Christians, you bring good tidings;
Get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
The coming of their King.
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish;
Like grass their works decay.
The pow'r and pomp of nations
Shall pass like a dream away;**

Please stand.

**3 But the Word of our God is eternal;
The arm of the Lord is strong.
He stands in the midst of the nations,
And he shall right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
The lambs shall gently hold,
To pastures of peace shall lead them,
And bring them safe to his fold.**

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION

P God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

C Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:6,10

P Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

C Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

C If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

P But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.

Psalms 130:3,4

**My soul now magnifies the Lord;
My spirit shall in God rejoice.
My humble state he did regard,
Exalting me by gracious choice.**

P God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich. *2 Corinthians 8:9*

P Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

**Henceforth shall people call be blest,
For great things he has done for me.
The mighty God is now my guest;
The Holy One has set me free.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P We light two Advent candles, remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

P We hear his call to repent.

C We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

P Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blest.

The Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world, through the same son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please be seated.

Our God speaks to us from his Word

First Lesson – Malachi 3:1-7

Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord encourages his people to return to him in humble repentance.

Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers bleach! He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who

cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies.

Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies.

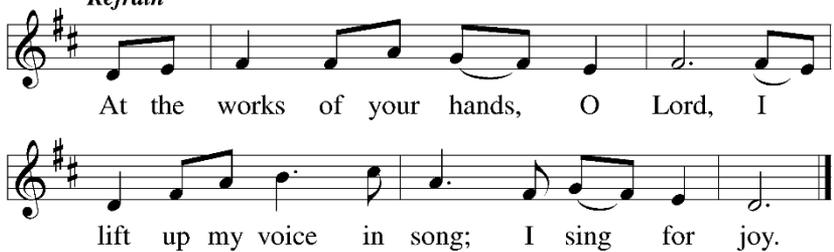
P The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day, Psalm 66

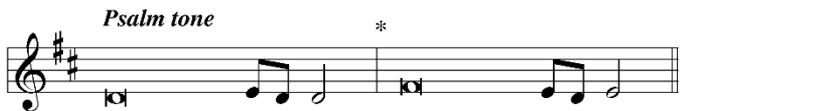
Psalm 66 is a psalm of thanksgiving for common blessings that God often gives us. Daily he delivers and protects his people from their enemies, as he did at the Red Sea. By enumerating these blessings, the Church summons all people to faith." Luther

Refrain



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice
in song; I sing for joy.

Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

Praise our God, O peoples,

let the sound of his praise be heard.

He has preserved our lives

and kept our feet from slipping.

Refrain

Come and listen, all you who fear God;

let me tell you what he has done for me.

If I had cherished sin in my heart,

the Lord would not have listened;

but God has surely listened

and heard my voice in prayer.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Second Lesson – Philippians 1:3-11

God began his good work in us at our baptism, empowering us to love, to demonstrate discernment and to produce fruits of repentance.

I thank my God every time I remember you. Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as we prepare for the reading of the Gospel.

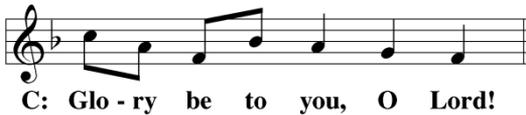
Gospel Acclamation - from Luke 3

P Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

C All people will see God's salvation. Alleluia.



Gospel – Luke 3:1-6



John the Baptist prepared people to meet their Savior by preaching a message of repentance and forgiveness.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar — while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene — during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The

crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.
And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

Children’s Message

Hymn – *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*

CW16

Sermon – Luke 3:1-6

We offer our God our Joyful Responses

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

Our Confession of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn – *Comfort, Comfort All My People*

CW11

**1 "Comfort, comfort all my people;
Speak of peace," so says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Groaning from their sorrows' load.
Speak to all Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover,
That their warfare now is over."**

**2 All their sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserve his anger
He no more will see or heed.
They have suffered many a day;
Now their griefs have passed away.
God will change their aching sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.**

**3 John the Baptist's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling people to repentance**

**For the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him
And the hills bow down to greet him.**

**4 Straighten out the crooked highway;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
Ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is spread abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That his word is never broken.**

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

P O Lord, our God, you declared Israel to be your people and brought them out of Egypt.

C **You desired their salvation even when they would not listen to your voice.**

P You have called and gathered us also to be your people the Holy Christian Church.

C **Open our hearts to listen and gladly submit to your Word.**

P Almighty God, as you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord,

C send forth pastors and missionaries to declare your saving Word to the nations.

P Preserve them from temptation, protect them in suffering.

C Equip them with every good gift to make known the Christ who still comes to save.

P Heavenly Father, as you call and gather us into your family, so bless the households of this congregation.

C Bless husbands and wives, fathers and mothers as they go about their work of strengthening marriage and raising children.

P Let their love abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment.

C Fill their homes with the righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus.

P Lord of hosts, John the Baptist counseled penitent soldiers to go about their military duties according to your Word. Remember those who serve in the armed forces.

C Protect them from harm, give them wisdom and courage, and grant that they fulfill their duties honorably.

P Merciful Lord, your forerunner prepared the way for the One who is mightier than all: your Son, Jesus Christ. For his sake, we entrust to you those in need of healing, comfort and rescue.

C Have mercy upon them, deliver them according to Your will and strengthen them in faith, that they might be assured of Your faithfulness. Lord, in your mercy, hear also our private our prayers.

P Holy God, you sent your Son to purify us, that we might be righteous and holy before you. Deliver us from the love of sin, which defiles us and stains our works.

C Cleanse our hearts by your grace, so that we may delight in your promises and our works would be pleasing to you.

P All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, and taught us to pray ...

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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen!**

Our God sends us with his blessing

Closing Prayer

- P Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



Please be seated.

Closing Hymn – Arise, O Christian People

CW14

**1 Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light was given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.**

**2 Prepare the way before him;
Prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him,
This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.**

**3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation --
It is the Lord's delight.**

**4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you
This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low**

**Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly**

+ + +

Looking ahead –

Sunday, December 15th - Worship 9:30am

Education time, 11am

Christmas decorating, 2:30pm

Chili supper

**Thursday, December 19th – cookie exchange at home of
Karloyn Hanna**

Sunday, December 22nd – worship with Communion

9:30am

Education time, 11am

Tuesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Worship 7pm

Wednesday, December 25th – Christmas Day Worship

9:30am

Sunday, December 29th - Worship 9:30am

Education time, 11am

Acknowledgements –

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