



**Second Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2021**

Rev. Kelley L. Pedersen, Interim Pastor

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 Christ 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 Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

(*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

Welcome & Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
**in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
✚ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

***Hymn** "Prepare the royal highway" #264

***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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

***Prayer of the Day**

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

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,
⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**
⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
**free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**
⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**
⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
⁷⁹**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

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I 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. ⁷It 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. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation -- p. 102**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord**

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In 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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into

all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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.

⁵Every 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;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day "Oh Jordan's bank the Baptists cry" #249

***Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

***Peace**

May the peace of God be with you all.

And also with you.

Offering and *Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us

as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Holy, Holy, Holy** p. 144

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer** p. 145

***Invitation to Communion**

Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion (table)

You will be ushered to the communion rail one group at a time. Pastor motions for those who wish to kneel. The bread/wafers (gluten free wafers are on the pedestal in front of the font) and wine/juice are distributed and children receive a blessing. Pastor blesses and dismisses each group together. Exit along the outside aisle, placing your empty cup in the holders there.

Distribution Hymns: #256 – Comfort, comfort now my people; #246 – Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

***Prayer after Communion**

Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,

sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

***Blessing**

The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn** "Hark the glad sound" #239

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Baptized believers sent into God’s world to share God’s love and grace.

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Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pr. Kelley can be reached at 402-750-9944 (cell).

The Giving Tree is up with names from Community Action Agency and Lutheran Services in Iowa.

- After you select a name tag, please record your name in the notebook next to the tree, in the corresponding number of the name tag.
- The name tag records the name or code letter, age, clothing sizes and gift suggestions.
- The gifts from LSI are not to be wrapped (this should be indicated on the tag).
- Please return gifts to the church by Sunday, December 12.
- Any questions, contact Gloria Healy, 873-5107.

This Week’s Events: Dec 5-11

Sun. Dec 5	9:00am	Second Sunday of Advent
Mon.		Office Closed
Tues.	7:00pm	AA Meeting (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Wed.	10:00am	Adult Bible Study (If another time works better, please share that with Pr. Kelley.)
	3:30-5pm	Kid’s Zone (through grade 6)
	6:00-6:30p	Confirmation
Wed.	7:00pm	Second Advent Service

Upcoming Events:

Sun. Dec 12	9:00am	Children’s Service
Wed. Dec 15	7:00	Third Advent Service

Worship Assistants for December:

Organist: Ruth Chartier
 Scripture Reader: Roger Christiansen
 Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton
 Acolyte:

Altar Guild: Roger & Susan Christiansen
 Offertory Accountants: Steve & Lisa Rippke

Crucifer:

Birthdays: 6-Kylie Thomas, Diane Weathers; 7-Ann Hoppe; 8-Jade Davidson, Janet Jansen; 10-Kyler Christiansen, Lavelle Fisher, Payton Latimer, Kim Steffen; 11-David Brosamle, Brylee Koehler, Rebecca Thomas

Prayers

For those battling cancer: Denise Arpino-treatment; Doug Dahlke-PET scan came back clear; Brad Pautsch (Cindy Ploen's brother)-started his immunizations Michelle Stovie (Harry Kloewer's daughter)-chemo, PET scan at the end of October

We also pray for Norma Thies-meeting with hospice; Talon Penning (Kara Koehn's brother)-Covid pneumonia, doing better and has returned home; Carla Boggs; Jon Kleemeier-rehab at home; Barb Kunkel; Ed Kunkel (Barb's son)-heart and lung issues, hospitalized with Covid; Drake Malm; Tucker Malm (10-yrs old)-Crohn's, doing well at home while waiting for surgery; Kelly Martin; Paula Roling; Kereen Swanger-recovering from stroke; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

We extend prayers to the family of Harry Kloewer who recently passed away after a long battle with cancer.

THANK YOU!

- to our November worship assistants!

On Ushers' Table:

- Children's bulletins
 - Lutheran Disaster Response - US Wildfires information, Haiti earthquake relief
 - 2021 Advent Devotional (large and small print available)
 - Seminal sheets for confirmation students
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VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED: The Altar Guild is seeking additional members to help with communion, etc. during the months of June & October. Please reach out to Susan Christiansen (cell: 870-4378) to volunteer or if you have additional questions!

God's Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!

Electronic giving	\$ 142.50
Mission Support	\$ 30.00
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$1,453.00</u>
Total	\$1,595.50

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