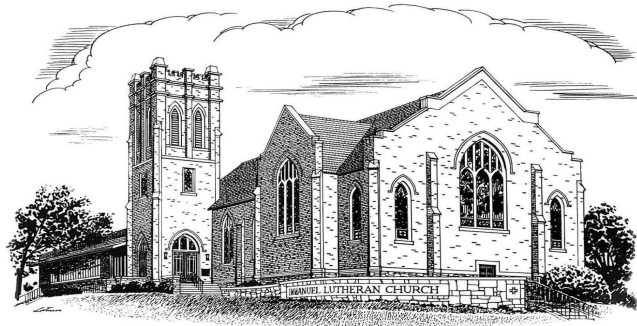




Second Sunday of Advent
 December 4, 2022 + 9:30 a.m.
*Find page numbers in the front of the ELW
 (red hymnal), and hymns in the back.*
Bold=All
 *Please stand as you are able

Welcome to Worship

Second Sunday of Advent



December 4, 2022
9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

"There's a Voice in the Wilderness," & "Prepare the Royal Highway," by David P. Dahl (b. 1937)
 Based on ELW 255 & 264

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
 who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
 Let us confront our sins,
 and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence for reflection

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

People of God,
 a new thing is growing in our midst,
 a tender branch,
 a living sign.
 By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
 You have put on + Christ,
 and your sins have been washed away.
 Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

ELW Hymn 245 | Verse 1

*GATHERING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
 Introduction by Robert Powell

ELW Hymn 254

*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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

1A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
 2The 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.
 3His 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;
 4but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek 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.

5Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
 6The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 7The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 8The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 9They 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.

10On 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.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 chanted responsively



1Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
 and your righteousness to | the king's son;
 2that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;
 3that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
 and the | hills, in righteousness.
 4Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R
 5May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
 from one generation | to another.

**6Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

7In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no
more.

**18Blessed are you, Lord God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

19And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

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

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

10and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

11and again,

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

12and again Isaiah says,

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

13May 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.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alleluia” **ELW page 151**

***Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

3This 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.’”

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

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

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

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” **ELW Hymn 356**

Introduction by David P. Dahl

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

...God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

...By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY

“There Shall a Star” by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

***OFFERING SONG**

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” **ELW Hymn 182**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

MEAL

***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.

... with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW page 153

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God now and forever.
Amen.

***LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 COMMUNION**

At the direction of the usher, please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available upon request, and you may choose wine (red) or alcohol-free juice (white). To receive communion at your seat, simply notify an usher. All who seek to receive Jesus in bread and cup are welcome to dine at this table.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“The Flower of Jesse” by John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

sung by Jonathon Moldovan

***TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

***BLESSING**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Prepare the Royal Highway” **ELW Hymn 264**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Freu dich sehr," by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Based on ELW 256