



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK

Interim Pastor Curt Matz

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*Welcome!* Words in **bold** are said together.

### *Confession and Forgiveness*

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

*L: 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)*

*L: God of new beginnings,*

**C: 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.**

*L: 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. C: Amen.*

### *Gathering Hymn – Hark, the Glad Sound #239*

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.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

### *Lighting the Second Advent Candle*

*L: Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. C: Amen.*

**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.**

*Scripture Readings* by Nancy Uptgraft

Isaiah 11:1-10

p. 558

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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; <sup>4</sup>but 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. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The 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. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.**

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

p. 464

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

**<sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

<sup>3</sup>May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**<sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**<sup>6</sup>May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**<sup>18</sup>Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

***All:* <sup>19</sup>Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.**

Romans 15:4-13

p. 924

<sup>4</sup>For 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. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ

Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ. <sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>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 patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and 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"; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; <sup>11</sup>and

again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah

says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles

shall hope." <sup>13</sup>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.**

The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 3:1-12

p. 784

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>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.’” <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But 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? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>Even 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. <sup>11</sup>“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. <sup>12</sup>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.**

*Children’s Message and Sermon*

Pastor Curt Matz

*Hymn of the Day – Light One Candle #240*

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.
3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.
4. Light four candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

*Apostle’s 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 God’s People*

Each petition ends “*Lord, in your mercy,*” please respond: **hear our prayer.**

## Offering

- ◇ Mail: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705
- ◇ Online: "giving" tab at [www.lordoflifeak.com/giving](http://www.lordoflifeak.com/giving) or the QR Code →
- ◇ Phone app: download "Give Plus Church" search by zip 99705, choose Lord of Life, and follow the instructions. Giving is secure.



### Offering Hymn – He Came Down #253

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. He came down that we may have love; | Verse 2: light |
| he came down that we may have love;    | Verse 3: peace |
| he came down that we may have love;    | Verse 4: joy   |
| hallelujah forevermore.                |                |

**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.**

### Christ's Words of Institution and Communion

*L: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.*

### Post Communion Prayer

*L: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bring 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. C: Amen.*

### The Lord's Prayer

We pray together with confidence the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray,

**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.**

### Announcements

- Tomorrow: 6pm Book Club. *The Book of Longings*. Bring a snack to share if you wish
- Wed: 6:30pm Soup Supper followed by 7pm Holden Evening Prayer worship
- Sat. 2pm Ornament Painting Party – bring your kids (psst, it's free)!
- Reminder: Youth group temporarily on hold; Sunday School changed to 11:30am
- 2 Beef shares still available; all proceeds to church fuel costs

### Sending Hymn – Lost in the Night #243

1. Lost in the night do the people yet languish,  
longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,  
plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish.

Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

2. Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?  
Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,  
Giving not heed to our burden of sorrow?  
Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?
3. Sorrowing wand'ers, In darkness yet dwelling,  
Dawned has the day of a radiance excelling,  
death's deepest shadows forever dispelling.  
Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon!
4. Light o'er the land of the needy is beaming;  
rivers of life through its deserts are streaming,  
bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming.  
Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

### *Blessing and Dismissal*

*L: 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. C: Amen.*

*L: Go in peace. Christ is near. C: Thanks be to God!*

### ***Special Thanks to...***

Assistant Minister/Reader, Nancy Uptgraft  
Video,  
Usher, Michelle & Erin Powers  
Communion Prep, Nancy & Mark Uptgraft

Pianist, Kari Hughes  
PowerPoint, Eileen Dubowski  
Acolyte, Mark Uptgraft  
Fellowship,

### ***Birthdays & Anniversaries...***

12-8 Lynne Skjefte & Lars Peterson  
12-10 Penny Warnke