

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 7th, 2025 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist

WELCOME

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Litany (by Fran Pratt)**

P: Great God, we are gathered here seeking the peace that is found in Your Presence.

C: Let us dwell always in Your presence and walk in Your ways.

P: When humanity opened the door to sin, we were plunged into darkness and despair. But You, Loving God, have made peace with us and restored us to grace.

C: For Your infinite mercy and lovingkindness, we thank You.

P: You sent Your son, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, into the world to save and heal Your children who were lost. The light of peace came into the world.

C: We who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

P: We prepare our hearts now and acknowledge that Christ's work on the cross was the beginning of Your kingdom here on earth where lion and lamb may lie down together. We are all one in the peace of Christ.

C: May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. May we carry the light of peace wherever we go. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #239**

“Hark! The Glad Sound”

***The Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. ~ 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.**

Advent Candle Lighting (2nd candle is lit)

“We Light a Candle” (verse 2 sung together ~ see insert)

Prayer

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.**

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 11: 1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David’s royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² 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. ³ 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, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.**

Psalm 72 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
² **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be
an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

The Second Reading ~ Romans 15: 4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruc-

tion, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸ 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 ancestors⁹ and 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”;¹⁰ and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;¹² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.”¹³ 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 Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 3: 1-12

The Holy Gospel according to the 3rd chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea,

proclaiming,² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”³ 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.’ ”⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him,⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance,⁹ and 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.¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹² 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.**

Sermon

***Hymn #249 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”**

***The Apostles’ Creed (professed together)**

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.

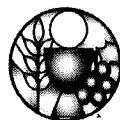
*Prayer of the Church

After each prayer petition, please respond:

God of grace ... **Hear our prayer.**

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements



The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

Communion will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the wafer will be dipped in the chalice so that both elements are received together.

Post Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: God for whom we wait, in this meal You give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #266**

“All Earth is Hopeful”

*The Dismissal

Go in peace to prepare the way for the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

Kindly return the song inserts to the back table in the narthex
so they may be used in future weeks. Thanks!

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*thank
you*

... to Kevin Filler for serving as our lector
... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech

The altar flowers have been sponsored by Pat
Hosler in loving memory of her husband.



To be remembered in prayer ... Richard Eisenhart, Hope Geary, Jeanne Logan, Steve Schoepple, Barb Shaneberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †

SHOOFLY PIE ORDERS

are due today! Forms on narthex tables.

Cost = \$12/per pie.



Please join us for worship on Christmas Eve,
Wed., December 24th at 6pm.
Preludes begin at 5:45pm. All are welcome!