



# Advent

A SEASON OF EXPECTATION

# *Second Sunday in Advent*

*December 4, 2022*

*8 am and 11 am Worship Service*

## **As We Gather**

In the opening verses of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, John greets the readers of his epistle in this singular way: “Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come”. John is confident that God’s grace is readily available for the readers of his letter who are scattered in many Christian gatherings across the area of Asia. And he is certain that the peace of God can reach to all of his readers in their very different and individual situations. The Advent season brings us the assurance that God’s plan is still unfolding and that we continue to abide in His peace. In this season of busyness, we can be peaceful and peaceable toward everyone by God’s grace!

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

**LSB 344 (vs. 1-3)**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

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## **Invocation**

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **Opening Sentences**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

**Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see.

**But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand, the son of man whom You have made strong for Yourself!**

I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### What Hope! An Eden Prophesied *LSB 342 (vs. 1 & 2)*

What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;  
The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, A branch from David's line,  
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God's design.

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### Confession and Absolution

O God, our Father, You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. We acknowledge our sinful nature and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and deed. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

**Amen.**

### On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry *LSB 344 (vs. 5)*

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

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## Service of the Word

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us with Your presence. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and grant us a deep and abiding peace for all of our days. By the working of the Holy Spirit, lead us to share that joy we now know as Your gift. Keep us in true faith until the coming of Your everlasting kingdom where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading**

***Isaiah 11:1-10***

**11** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

**2** And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

**3** And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

**4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and 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 of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

**6** The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf 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 cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

**9** They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**10** In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## **Epistle**

***Romans 15:4-13***

**4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. **5** May the God of endurance and

encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to 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 praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

<sup>10</sup> And again it is said,  
"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup> And again,  
"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says,  
"The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

This is the Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## **Holy Gospel**

## ***Matthew 3:1-12***

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

***Glory to You, O Lord.***

**3** In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to 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 he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. 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 gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to You, O Christ.*

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of  
Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary  
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius  
Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\text{✠}$  of the  
world to come. Amen.

## Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

**LSB 345 (vs. 1-3,5)**

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!

“Christ is near,” we hear it say.

“Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!”

Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!

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**Message**

***Vicar Ken Estes***

**Prayers of the Church**

## **Service of the Sacrament**

**The Words of Our Lord**

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

***LSB 359***

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory,  
Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven,  
And to the endless day.

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## Dismissal

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We thank You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to be our Redeemer, saving us from the power of sin, death, and the devil, and blessing our lives with lasting peace. Invited by Your grace, we joined together at Your Table expectantly and hopefully with gratitude and joy. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we grow as people of faith and peace, awaiting with hope the eternal feast in glory everlasting.

**Amen.**

## Blessing of God's People (Benediction)

### Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

**LSB 515**

Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing,  
And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising  
And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
At midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain  
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as He approaches  
With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
The Bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience  
Their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever



When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before Him  
Their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for,  
O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption  
That sets Your people free!

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Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

# *Family Contemporary*

*9:30 am Worship Service*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Opening Song of Praise**

## **First Reading**

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accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

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maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of  
Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary  
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius  
Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the  
world to come. Amen.

## **Praise Song**

**Message**

**Vicar Ken Estes**

## **Confession and Absolution**

O God, our Father, You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

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**Amen.**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

**Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

### **Distribution Songs**

### **Prayers**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Blessing of God's People (Benediction)**

### **Closing Song of Praise**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

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## ***Altar Flowers***

To the glory of God by the congregation

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# BLC Events this week

## **Sunday, December 4**

8 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
9:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
9:30 am	Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) <i>Led by Pastor Bicknase</i>
9:30 am	Adult Bible Study (Upper Room)
9:30 am	Children's Sunday School
11 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion With Live Stream of worship
	Intergenerational Bible Study
4 pm	Advent by Candlelight

## **Monday, December 5**

10:30 am	Senior Christmas Party
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## **Tuesday, December 6**

9 am	Christmas Setup Party
6 pm	Hand Bells Rehearsal

## **Wednesday, December 7**

9:30 am	Preschool Chapel (Sanctuary)
12 noon	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
1 pm	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
5:30 pm	Confirmation (Conference Room)
	Senior High Youth Group
7 pm	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

## **Thursday, December 8**

9:30 am	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
4:30 pm	Praise Team (Sanctuary)
6:15 pm	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
6:45 pm	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

## **Saturday, December 10**

8:45 am	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
10:30 am	Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

## **Sunday, December 11**

9 am-noon	LWML Cookie Walk
8 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
9:30 am	Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
9:30 am	Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) <i>Led by Pastor Bicknase</i>
9:30 am	Adult Bible Study (Upper Room)
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11 am	Traditional Worship with Holy Communion With Live Stream of worship

## **Please Keep In Your Prayers**

Mary Barrett and Family, Gary Brett, Deborah A. Brewer, Ben Bryant, Don Connell, Linda Cox, Becky Duck, Sue Eischen, Joan Fischer, Kristine Gideon, Paul Huber, Kim M. Johnston, Jerry Kirkman, Leland Lammle, Karen Matteson, Susan Novak, Joyce Ray, Katie Richards, Dean Shackelford, Sylvia Spiering, Mary Spreier, Tucker family, Fae Williams

*Please fill out a prayer card and put it in the altar plate or call the office.*

## **Birthdays this week**

Aubrey Costescu, Matthew LaForty, Violet Noakes, Joan Richards, MaryEllen Huser, Leonard Lucas, Kelly Sly

## **Anniversary this week**

Rusty and Cindy Stafford

Salvatore and Renee Zingales

## **Announcements**

### **Advent Begins**

Sunday, November 27, Wednesday worship begins November 30<sup>th</sup> @ noon and 7 pm.

### **Sunday, November 27**

Congregational meeting at 12:15

### **ABC**

Registrations for Advent by Candlelight are now "wait list" only and are limited to single seats. Cancellations always occur, so if you missed the regular registration, please add your name to the waitlist.

Still needed are volunteers to bring desserts. Please contact Holly Dellinger (904) 349-6059 or Shirl Kirkman (720) 270-4038. Also needed are several volunteers to provide dishes and decorations for tables.

Contact Erica McCarty (423) 201-2694. ABC will be held Sunday, Dec. 4, 4-7 p.m. and is open to all women of the church.

## **Acknowledgments**

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### **Christmas Card Party**

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> please join the Seniors @ 10:45 for a gift exchange, entertainment and lunch.

Bring a white elephant gift if you want to participate. We would appreciate you bringing a covered dish to share. Talk with Maryann Lawrence if you have any questions. 904-246-3279.

### **Women's Bible Study**

December 7<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

### **Men's Bible Study**

Men's Bible study will resume on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **South Africa Mission Trip**

A mission trip to Ntshongweni, South Africa is being planned for February 3-13, 2023.

*Reminder: donations for Ntshongweni can be made at any time, simply write "South Africa" on the memo line. All of the donations received will be used to provide food, housing, education, medical and other needs for our brothers and sisters in South Africa.*

### **Bethlehem Member's Directory**

The Bethlehem Member's directory is a wonderful resource for putting names with faces and providing names/addresses/e-mail/phone number, so we can contact one another. *This directory is only available to BLC members. None of your information will be shared with others.*

If you would like a pdf copy or a printed copy, please contact the office and one will be printed or emailed for you.

If some of your information has changed, let us know what is so it can be updated. We would love to have pictures of everyone in the directory. If you have a current picture or have directory changes, send to:

[tami@bethlehemlutheranjaxbeach.org](mailto:tami@bethlehemlutheranjaxbeach.org), or leave it with the church office staff or an elder.

Tami and Bob DeGroat ([JaxSailor@gmail.com](mailto:JaxSailor@gmail.com)) can be contacted if you wish a picture taken at the church by one of us.

### **Angel Tree Christmas Program**

Bethlehem is participating in the Angel Tree program again this year.

Gifts should be returned wrapped by Wednesday; December 7<sup>th</sup> include a gift receipt if possible. Please no visa or bank gift cards. Talk with Holly Dellinger, for more information @ 904-349-6059.

BLC Guest Password: MartinLuther

### **LWML Mite Stockings**

A few people were wondering when to turn in the Christmas Mite Stocking you have been filling with quarters all year long. We will be collecting those in January to give everyone a chance to get December's quarters added to their stocking. Look for an announcement in the bulletin for the date. Thanks in advance for helping fulfill the Mission Mite Goal for the LWML.



# Advent

## Midweek Advent Worship Services

*with Holy Communion*

December 7th, 12 noon & 7 pm

December 14th, 12 noon & 7 pm

## Christmas Eve Worship Services

*Children and Family Christmas Eve*

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm

*Candlelight Service with Holy Communion*

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm and 10 pm

## Christmas Day Worship Service

*with Holy Communion*

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 am

## New Year's Eve Worship Service

*with Holy Communion*

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm

## New Year's Day Worship Service

*with Holy Communion*

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 am



**Return by December 4**

**BLC collecting for Christmas Food Bags**

**Donate what you can**

Cereal hot/cold

Pancake/waffle mixes – Syrup

Peanut Butter – Jelly

Soups – Taco Kits

Canned vegetables or fruit

Packs of rice/potatoes/pasta/mac n cheese

Spaghetti and sauce

Bread mix (cornbread, biscuits, etc.)

Box of cookies or dessert mix

*Please contact the office if you know  
of a family in need.*

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

Basket is located in the Narthex



# LWML **COOKIE** Walk

December 11  
Fellowship Hall  
Starts at 9 am

Pick up your container  
Fill it up with some  
amazing cookies  
\$5 per pound

All money raised will be sent to  
Concordia Seminary to  
support the Food Bank.

Too busy to bake Christmas cookies?

*Come to the Cookie Walk.*

Like to have a variety of Christmas cookies but don't want to spend all that time baking?

*Come to the Cookie Walk.*

Don't like to bake but like to eat Christmas cookies?

*Come to the Cookie Walk.*

Love to bake but don't want to have all those cookies at your home?

*Come to the Cookie Walk and donate those extra cookies.*

Want to give your friends/neighbors some special treats for the holiday?

*Come to the Cookie Walk.*

Love to support a good mission?

*Come to the Cookie Walk.*



Each person will be given a container and gloves. Then they can go through and pick out what cookies they would like to purchase. When done the container will be weighed with the cost being \$5 per pound. *(Please note that all amounts will be rounded up to the nearest dollar.)*

If you would like to volunteer to bring some cookies, please bring about 2-3 dozen of your favorite cookie. If you want to know more about this event, please feel free to contact Becky Bicknase at [bicnbec2@gmail.com](mailto:bicnbec2@gmail.com).

SACRED MUSIC FOR THE ADVENT SEASON... "Savior of the Nations, Come," "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry," "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." You can listen to sacred music for the Advent season 24/7 at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org), TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.



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