



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 11:15 AM

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

PRELUDE—Reformation Bells

Foundation – Early American tune arr. Karen Thompson

Meditation – Vaclav Nelhybel ed. Richard Crawford

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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 is kept 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.

GATHERING HYMN • ELW 249

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

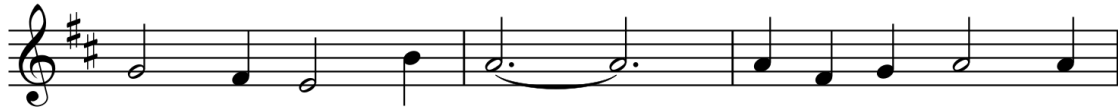
Please sing verse 1 & 2 as we light the first candle.



(Advent 1) Light the can-dle of love to-day, the giv-er of love is
 (Advent 2) Light the can-dle of peace to-day, the giv-er of peace is
 (Advent 3) Light the can-dle of joy to-day, the giv-er of joy is
 (Advent 4) Light the can-dle of hope to-day, the giv-er of hope is



here!_____ Wel-come the love we live and die for, but
 here!_____ Wel-come the peace we fight and cry for, but
 here!_____ Wel-come the joy we crave and pray for, but
 here!_____ Wel-come the hope we long and wait for, but



on - ly Christ can give._____ Flick-er and flame and
 on - ly Christ can give._____ Flick-er and flame and
 on - ly Christ can give._____ Flick-er and flame and
 on - ly Christ can give._____ Flick-er and flame and



glow_ with love, light up the world a - round you.
 glow_ with peace, light up the world a - round you.
 glow_ with joy, light up the world a - round you.
 glow_ with hope, light up the world a - round you.



Flick-er and flame and glow with love, light up the world a -
 Flick-er and flame and glow with peace, light up the world a -
 Flick-er and flame and glow with joy, light up the world a -
 Flick-er and flame and glow with hope, light up the world a -



round _____ you.
 round _____ you.
 round _____ you.
 round _____ you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Please be seated.

WORD

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.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
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.
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;
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.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

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.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
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.

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.

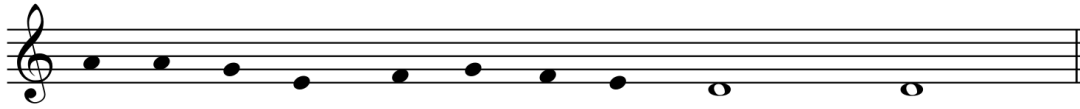
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The cantor introduces the antiphon. Please sing the 2nd time and after the verses.



He shall have pit - y on the low - ly and poor,



and shall re-deem their lives from op - pres - sion.

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people,
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

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

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!

And blessed be his glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. [*Antiphon*]

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.

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

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 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, 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”;

and again he says,

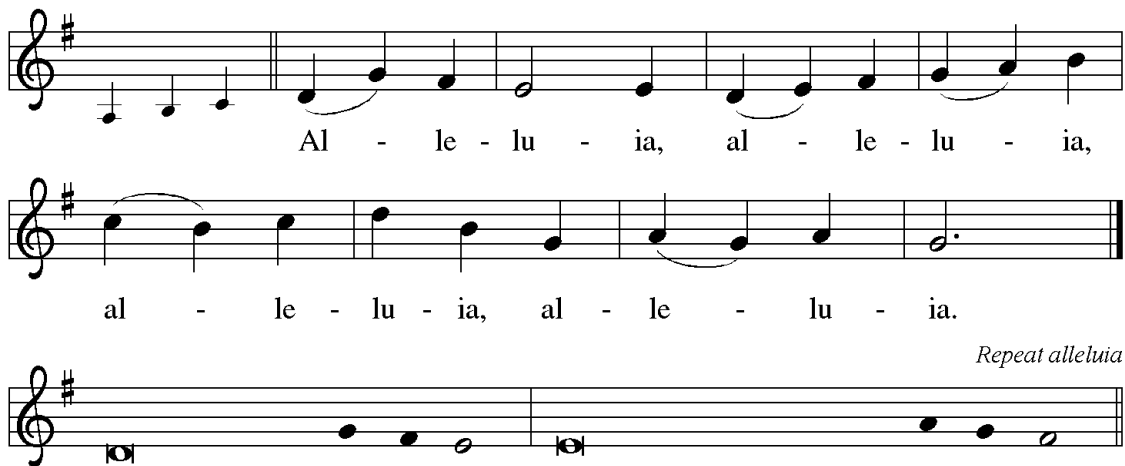
“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
 and let all the peoples praise him”;
 and again Isaiah says,
 “The root of Jesse shall come,
 the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
 in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Alleluia. Prepare the way | of the Lord.* All flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God.
Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6)

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the third chapter.
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.

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

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

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? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 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. 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.

"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. 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

Pastor Miller

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY • ELW 256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

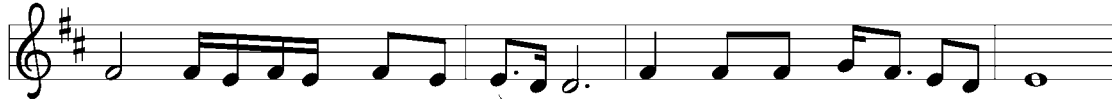
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of 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 INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

After each portion of the prayers:
We come to you...



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943
Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema
Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The prayers conclude:

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. 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 Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on “Freu Dich Sehr”

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Please stand as you are able.

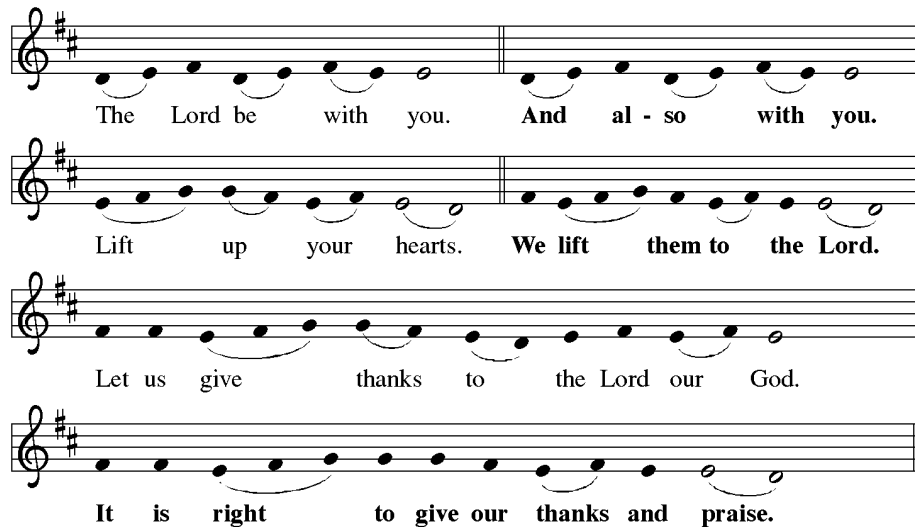
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga a nosotros tu reino,
hagase tu voluntad,
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.**

**Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;
perdona nuestras ofensas,
como nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,
mas libranos del mal.**

**Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites us to this table.

Come, taste and see.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are two stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server) Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN • ELW 255

There's a Voice in the Wilderness



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988
 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE—ACS 905

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.

Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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 • ELW 264

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway

Egil Hovland (1924-2013)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

COMMUNION SERVER

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski, *Confirmation Pastor*

READER

Patsy Zawistoski

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Beatrice Kilima, Keith Thornton, Jonathan and Kenneth Thornton

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Edie Venit, *Director of Reformation Bells*

Reformation Bells

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This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, Dec. 4—Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 AM Holy Communion
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM The Forum
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00 AM SLSHY
10:00 AM Reception
10:15 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15 AM Holy Communion
3:00 PM Zoom San Lucas Gospel Meditation

MONDAY, December 5

8:00 AM CDS Classes
6:00 PM Yoga
7:00 PM ESL

TUESDAY, December 6

8:00 AM CDS Classes
4:30 PM Piano Lessons
7:00 PM ESL
7:00 PM Girl Scouts
7:00 PM Reformation Bells

WEDNESDAY, December 7

7:00 AM Zoom Faith Connections
8:00 AM Advent Midweek Devotion (Online)
8:00 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Women in Community
10:00 AM CDS Chapel
3:00 PM En Camino
5:00 PM Choristers RSCM program
5:30 PM Zoom Sara/Lydia Circle
6:30 PM Christmas Tree/Property Lighting and Refreshment
7:00 PM ESL
7:30 PM Schola Cantorum Rehearsal

7:30 PM AA

THURSDAY, December 8

8:00 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Emergency Drill
4:00 PM CARing Project
7:30 PM Zoom Centering Prayer

FRIDAY, December 9

8:00 AM CDS Classes

SATURDAY, December 10

8:30 AM Zoom Men's Group
9:30 AM AA
11:00 AM Holl Funeral
11:00 AM Al-Anon
1:00 PM Cookie Decorating

SUNDAY, Dec. 11—Third Sunday of Advent

8:45 AM Holy Communion
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00 AM SLSHY
10:00 AM Reception
10:15 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15 AM Holy Communion
12:15 PM Creche Rehearsal
5:00 PM San Lucas Misa Espanol

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed

Upcoming Commemorations

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Sunday, December 4, 2022

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

Saint Luke Update 12/04/2022 Edition

MASKS ARE ENCOURAGED INDOORS AT SAINT LUKE

ADVENT

The season of hope continues. Another candle on the Advent wreath will brighten the light. The light, no darkness can overcome is coming into the world. During this season we hope for the birth of the baby Jesus in our hearts and we look to the coming of Jesus when he comes to usher in the kingdom. Christ came, Christ comes, Christ is coming.

SPECIAL FORUM THIS MORNING: *UKRAINE AND THE CHURCH*

The war in Ukraine continues, but what is the response from the global church? How have Lutherans been aiding refugees? What is our call? Special Guest Dr. Paul Wee, friend of this congregation and formerly with the Lutheran World Federation, will share a special multi media presentation in the sanctuary, **10:00 a.m.**

BE BORN IN US TODAY

Each week join Pastors Miller and Morales for Advent Devotions, *Be Born In Us Today*, **Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.** www.saintlukeonline.us We are familiar with the physical birth of the baby in the manger but how is Jesus born in us each day? The theme comes from the stanza of the beautiful hymn, O Little Town of Bethlehem; *O Holy child of Bethlehem, descend on us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.*

16,000 LIGHTS! THIS WEDNESDAY!

Imagine more than 16,000 lights in our Saint Luke courtyard, a beautiful Christmas tree, lights around the church, illuminating the entire block between Highland and Dale—even the trees in the south lot? Wow. Come **this Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 p.m.** meeting out front in the courtyard. We will flip the switch, enjoy a carol or two and some warm beverages. Let us behold the beauty. Pass the word—see you then.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING

Make sure to pick up a brochure, *Opportunities for Sharing*. They are located on the credenzas in the narthex. Also, you may go to the electronic link. Simply go to www.saintluke.us and see the left hand column. Consider honoring or remembering someone with the gift of a Poinsettia Food Card. How about giving to the Christmas Gift Fund for the children of La Sagrada? Maybe you can contribute to the Hat and Mitten Tree, or how about checking out the ELCA Good Gifts, or might you like to help the CDS Scholarship Fund and purchase a wreath? Thank you for giving and helping so many.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Mark your calendar, **December 18, 5:00 p.m.** for this very special evening. The Word of hope, beautiful music by the Schola Cantorum and Choristers, followed by a reception. Please pass the word.

IN PERSON CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Children's Creche (Christmas Story) Service
8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Services of Lessons, Carol and Holy Communion
12:00 Midnight Misa Navidad (Worship is in Spanish) - **Online Only**

IN PERSON CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Festival Worship

Today's Music

HYMN NOTES

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749

When Chandler translated the hymn from Latin he thought that it was a medieval work, but it was by a distinguished French scholar of the 18th century who wrote more than 100 hymns in Latin. Its theme is John the Baptist's announcement of Christ's advent and call to the people of Israel to repent and prepare for His coming.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

Comfort, comfort now my people

Johann Olearius, 1611-1684

Based on Isaiah 40:1-5, the text is for Advent but is specially marked for St. John the Baptist's Day, June 24. The author, who was court chaplain at Halle and at one time a member of the philosophy faculty at Wittenberg, included this hymn in his 1671 collection of hymns. The rhythm of the tune suggests a dance for joy at the coming of Christ. - Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

There's a voice in the wilderness

James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961

The voice crying out in Isaiah 40:3-11 is the stimulus for this text. It was written in 1925 in response to the union of Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational churches that formed the United Church of Canada and was first published in *The Hymnary of the United Church of Canada* (1930).—ELW Hymnal Companion

Prepare the royal highway

Franz Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847

Franzen, who served with Archbishop Wallin in the preparation of the masterful Swedish *Psalmbook* of 1819, was born in Finland but lived most of his life in Sweden, where he served several churches before being appointed Bishop. The fine Advent text with echoes of Psalm 24:7-10 is graced with an ingratiating tune from another Swedish collection, *Then Swenska Psalmboken* of 1697.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

MUSIC NOTES

During the Offering: Chorale Prelude on "Freu Dich Sehr" - Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Gerald Near is considered one of the finest composers of church music writing today. He first studied theory and composition at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago with Leo Sowerby, and continued those studies with Leslie Bassett at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. While at the University of Michigan, he also studied organ with Robert Glasgow, published organ and choral music, and completed his Master's degree in orchestral conducting while studying under Gustav Meier. —ecspublishing.com

His short setting on the tune "Freu Dich Sehr" is a charming, light dialogue between a recurring figuration on one manual and a simple harmonization of the tune on a secondary manual.

Postlude: Prepare the Royal Highway—Egil Hovland (1924-2013)

Hovland, a Norwegian composer, was born in Råde. He studied at the Oslo conservatory with Arild Sandvold and Bjarne Brustad, in Copenhagen with Vagn Holmboe, at Tanglewood with Aaron Copland, and in Florence with Luigi Dallapiccola. He was the organist and choir leader in Fredrikstad from 1949 until his death. His many works include two symphonies, a concerto for trumpet and strings, Music for Ten Instruments, a set of variations for two pianos, and a lament for orchestra. His sacred works include a Norwegian Te Deum, a Gloria, a Magnificat, and numerous works for organ, and he was one of the most noted church composers of Norway.—Wikipedia

His setting on "Prepare the Royal Highway" puts the tune in the pedal. The hands accompany with a toccata-like figuration on full organ.