

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

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December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(© 2011 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Mark Roberts

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW (vv. 1, 2)

- 1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! *Refrain*
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet Hosanna to the Lord,
the King of glory, foretold in sacred story: for he fulfills God's word!

- 2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments!
Shout and sing! God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

(Text: Franz Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship; Music: Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.; Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress)

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 give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240 (v. 1, 2)

- 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.

(Text: Wayne L. Wold; Music: Yiddish folk tune; Text © 1984 Fortress Press)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Read responsively; congregation reads bold verses

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,

**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

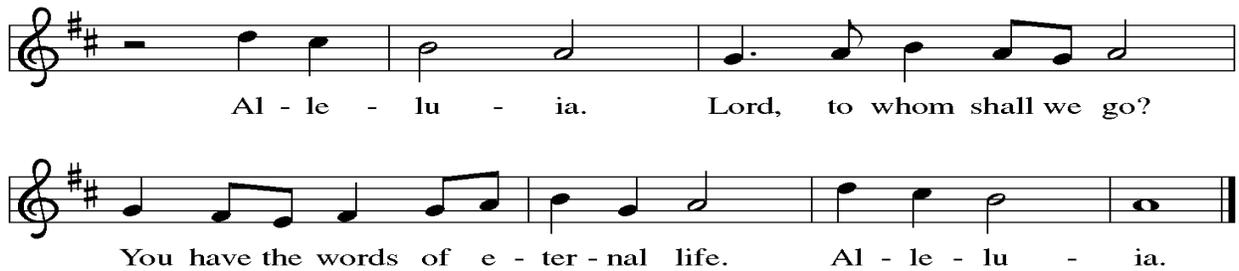
I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

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.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

ELW 249 (vv. 1-3)

- 1 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!
- 2 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.

- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; without your grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

(Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite; Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition Hear us, O God.
 Your mercy is great.

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 And also with you.

We offer each other a sign of God's peace. Afterwards, the assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Prepare!

Adult Choir

Text: Isaiah 40: 3-4; Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722, tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt. Music © 2004 Jubilate Music Group, LLC)

*An offering is gathered for the mission and ministry of God's Church.
Please stand as you are able.*

OFFERING HYMN

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

(Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

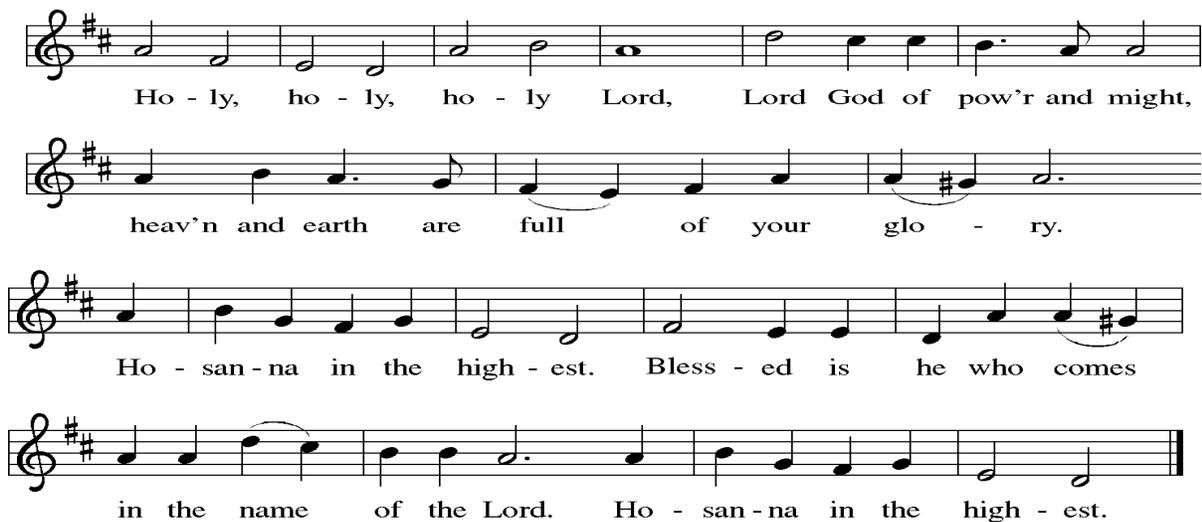
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he come. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor in yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us pray together.

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.

FRACTURE

The breaking of the bread.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION

The body and Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS***By Your Hand You Feed your People******ELW 469***

- 1 By your hand you feed your people, food of angels, heaven's bread. For these gifts we did not labor, by your grace have we been fed: *Refrain*
Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'er flowing, life outpoured, given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.
- 2 In this meal we taste your sweetness, bread for hunger, wine of peace. Holy word and holy wisdom satisfy our deepest needs. *Refrain*
- 3 Send us now with faith and courage to the hungry, lost, bereaved. In our living and our dying, we become what we receive: *Refrain*

(Text: Susan B. Briehl; Music: Marty Haugen; Text and music © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People***ELW 256***

- 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.
- 2 For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

(Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551)

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus from whom we wait. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding! ELW 246 (vv. 1, 2)

- 1 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!"
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

(Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878; Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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Be Comforted, My People

Lani Smith

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Announcements

Advent and Christmas 2021 Worship Schedule

Advent Services

December 12th - 3rd Sunday of Advent - **10 am***

December 19th - 4th Sunday of Advent w/Christmas Cantata - **10 am***

December 21st – The Longest Night Service - **6:30 pm**

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th - Christmas Eve Worship w/Holy Communion—**11 am***

Family Service— **4 pm** (outside)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – **7:30 pm***

Christmas Eve Online Service (Livestreamed on YouTube) – **7:30 pm**

December 26th—Lessons and Carols—**10 am**

**Services with Holy Communion*



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in remembrance of Mildred Baxter's birthday by Linda Farrell.

We are taking flower dedications for 2022. The dates available are: January 2nd, February 6th and 27th, March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th, April 3rd, 10th and 17th, May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. Contact Rachel Hills at rm_hills@yahoo.com if you would like to sponsor the flowers.

Visit with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, December 11th from 9 – 11 am. Reservations are required to participate and all safety protocol will be followed. **Sign up by December 5th.** Flyers are on third floor counter, in the weekly emails and in the church office.



Social Ministry is providing gifts for seniors in need in our community for Christmas. If you are interested in participating in this program, take a tag from the tree in the Narthex. We ask that you wrap your gift and attach the tag to the outside of the gift and return it under the tree or in the church office. **Please return your gift by Sunday, December 12th.**

The Busy Bees invite you to participate in their Jelly and Jam Sale. They are offering the same delicious flavors as in the past along with bread & butter pickles and apple butter. Order forms are on the third floor counter, in the weekly emails, and on the website. You may also contact the church office to place your order.



Social Ministry is participating in the “Food For Thought Program”. With your help, we are providing weekend take home food bags for children in need. This program would not be possible without the help of our congregation and community. **Our greatest need at this time is chicken & tuna salad kits, pudding cups, applesauce and Chef-Boyardee single serving meals.**

Are you doing any online Christmas shopping? Is so, support St. John’s when you shop. Go to: smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6012034 and Amazon donates to Saint John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Parkville Inc



This week's schedule	
Today	9 am Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) 10 am Live & Online Worship
Mon.	
Tues.	
Wed.	6:45 pm Handchimes Rehearsal (Music Room) 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Thurs.	
Fri.	
Sat.	9 am Visit w/Santa (Fellowship Hall)

Those Serving Today	10 am
Assisting Minister	Claire Miller
Crucifer	Noah Shull
Acolyte (s)	Sophia & Olivia Shull
Lector	Michelle Alkire
Communion Assistant	Michelle Alkire



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Richard Hoerner, Julie Hastings, Kelly Sanford, Bett Murphy, Laurie Krieger, Mike McDonough, Dave Kocan, Debbie Miller, Pat Denk, Sandy Scott, John McLaughlin, Tony Jasinski, Patty Schwab and Vickie Jasinski

For family & friends: Jay Snyder, Mary January, Roy Kline, Michael Albrecht, Rose Alexander, Cynthia Schepler, Rita Brady, Anna Meyers, Norma Weber, Lou Ermer, Helen Marcomin, Rosemay Balmos, Roberta Wiessner, Helen & Don Bender and Doug Adams

For the military and their families: Leroy Keller, Seaman E-3 Carson Anthony Bowser, Lance Corporal Justin Ferro, Sgt. Stephen Peck, Staff Sgt. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, Chaplain A. J. Striffler and all those in harm's way

For those grieving family & friends of: Clara Westphal and Donald Pulket

For St. John's Caring Friends: Trudy Anderson, Helen Baker, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, Gladys Downs, Margaret Eubert, June Franz, Betty Glassband, Audrey Lentz, John Lotterer, Patrick O'Connell, Arthur Pulket, Mary Ann Reek, Janet Roth, Patricia Sollanek, Cass Tracey, Emma Volz and Doris Warfield.

STAFF

Joseph Lettrich, Interim Pastor	M. Claire Miller, OSSD Deacon
Carol Erpenstein, Church Secretary	Martha Requard, Director of Music

Scott Becker, Sexton



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St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville



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