



ADVENT

**PRAISE SERVICE
DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION *During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the Scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: God of grace, You have given us minds to know You, hearts to love You, and voices to sing Your praise. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may celebrate Your glory in spirit and truth, through Jesus our Savior. AMEN.*

CHILDREN *We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.*

INTRODUCTION *Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing, we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN *(Please rise.)*

"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" (ELW #.249)

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: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

PUER NOBIS
L.M.

INVOCATION *(= All may make the sign of the cross.)*

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son , and of the Holy Spirit.
C: AMEN.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

(Please kneel.)

“Kyrie” (WOV p 28)

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

C Lord, have mer - cy. **A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:

C Christ, have mer - cy. **A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

C Lord, have mer - cy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Almighty God, **C: We confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed Your reign of mercy, justice, and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of Your advent among us. Forgive us our sin. We await You coming to save us. AMEN.**

P: In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon us and forgives us all our sins. **C: AMEN.**

GREETING *(Please rise.)*

P: From the One Who was, Who is, and Who is to come: grace and peace be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

HYMN OF PRAISE “*God the Omnipotent!*” (LBW # 462)

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system contains the next two lines. The fourth system contains the final two lines. The piano accompaniment is simple, with chords and single notes. The lyrics are: 1 God the om - nip - o - tent! King who or - dain - est
2 God the all - mer - ci - ful! Earth hath for - sak - en
3 God the All - righ - teous One! We have de - fied thee,
4 God the all - wise! By the fire of thy chas - t'ning
Great winds thy clar - i - ons, light - ning thy sword:
Meek - ness and mer - cy, and slight - ed thy Word;
Yet to e - ter - ni - ty stand - eth thy Word;
Earth shall to free - dom and truth be re - stored;
Show forth thy pit - y on high where thou reign - est;
Bid not thy wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en;
False - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side thee;
Through the thick dark - ness thy king - dom is has - t'ning;
1-3 Give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
4 Thou wilt give peace in thy time, O Lord.

Text: Henry F. Chorley, 1808–1872, sts. 1–2; John Ellerton, 1826–1893, sts. 3–4; alt.
Music: RUSSIAN HYMN, Alexis F. Lvov, 1799–1870

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together: **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. Baptize us with the fire of Your Spirit, that we may be a**

light shining in the darkness, welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

(Please sit. Advent Wreath family comes forward.)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verse 1 (SBH # 2 tune 2)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel.
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Reader: In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God’s promises. No matter how dark the darkness may be, we know the promise of this Second Candle of Peace and its coming light is true.

(The lighting of the second candle.)



Let us pray together: **We praise You, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the second candle on this wreath, bring us peace with hope, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when He comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with Your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome Him. Grant this through Christ our Lord, Whose coming is certain and Whose day draws near. AMEN.**

(Advent Wreath family returns to seats.)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verse 4 (SBH # 2 tune 2)

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

P: Gracious Father, let Your blessing come upon us as we illumine this Chrismon tree. Accept our thanks for this symbol of Your everlasting, evergreen presence and protection. Bless this sign of the cross, shining with the light of Your grace and mercy. Lord Jesus, You are the light of the world. Holy Spirit, enable all who see the light and symbols of this tree to eagerly welcome the true Light which never fades, the Word made flesh.

C: AMEN.

RESPONSIVE READING.... Luke 1:68-79

(congregation reads indented)

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,

because He has come and has redeemed His people.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

(as He said through His holy prophets of long ago),
salvation from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us—
to show mercy to our fathers

and to remember His holy covenant,
the oath He swore to our father Abraham:

to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve Him without fear

in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;

for you will go on before the Lord
to prepare the way for Him,

to give His people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,

by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

PRAISE SONG “Purify My Heart”

(FC- guitar - Jeff Nelson) sing 2x

The musical score is written on eight staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "Pur - i - fy my heart.", "Touch me with Your cleans - ing fire.", "Take me to the cross. Your", "ho - li - ness is my de - sire.", "Breathe Your life in me.", "Kin - dle a love that flows from Your throne. Oh,", "pur - i - fy my heart.", and "Pur - i - fy my heart." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases ending in a fermata.

Pur - i - fy my heart.

Touch me with Your cleans - ing fire.

Take me to the cross. Your

ho - li - ness is my de - sire.

Breathe Your life in me.

Kin - dle a love that flows from Your throne. Oh,

pur - i - fy my heart.

Pur - i - fy my heart.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING ...Malachi 3:1-7a.....Pew Bible p. 1490

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING...Philippians 1:1-11.....p. 1825

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please rise.) "The King Is Coming"* *(Maj # 280 chorus - favorite - Gloria & William J. Gaither)*

O the King is com-ing, the King is
com-ing! I just heard the trum-pets sound-ing, And
now His face I see; O the King is com-ing, the
King is com-ing! Praise God, He's com-ing for me!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd Chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPELLuke 3:1-6.....p. 1593

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Young children go to Children's Church with Mrs. Kistler.)

SERMON *(Please sit. See outline in Announcements insert.)*

"Are You Prepared?"

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide" (LBW # 38 tune: GRACE CHURCH)

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has four lines of lyrics corresponding to the four voices. The second system has two lines of lyrics. The third system has two lines of lyrics. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides harmonic support for the voices.

1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; come down, come
2 O Morn - ing Star, O Ra - dant Sun, when will our
3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; grim death looms
4 There shall we all our prais - es bring ev - er to
down with might - y stride; un - lock the gates, the doors break
hearts be - hold your dawn? O Sun, a - rise; with - out your
fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y
you, our Sav - ior King; there shall we laud you and a -
down; un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
light we grope in gloom and dark of night.
hand from ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: German spiritual song, Köln, 1623; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967, alt.
Tune: Ignaz J. Pleyel, 1757-1831

GRACE CHURCH
L.M.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ His 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 into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

OFFERING *We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD’S WORLD

BLESSING

P: The Lord of peace strengthen your hearts as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all the saints. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: AMEN.

(Please rise.)

SENDING HYMN “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

(Maj # 673 - favorite - H. Ernest Nichol)

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments. Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place. You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.

ALTAR FLOWERS and BULLETINS are sponsored by:

Holy Cross for the Glory of God

1 We've a sto - ry to tell to the na - tions That shall turn their
 2 We've a song to be sung to the na - tions That shall lift their
 3 We've a mes - sage to give to the na - tions—That the Lord who
 4 We've a Sav - ior to show to the na - tions Who the path of

1 hearts to the right, A sto - ry of truth and mer - cy, A
 2 hearts to the Lord, A song that shall con - quer e - vil And
 3 reign - eth a - bove Hath sent us His Son to save us And
 4 sor - row hath trod, That all of the world's great peo - ples Might

1 sto - ry of peace and light, A sto - ry of peace and light.
 2 shat - ter the spear and sword, And shat - ter the spear and sword.
 3 show us that God is love, And show us that God is love.
 4 come to the truth of God, Might come to the truth of God.

For the dark-ness shall turn to dawn - ing, And the dawn-ing to noon-day bright,

And Christ's great king-dom shall come on earth, The king-dom of love and light.

DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SERVANTS OF THE LORD TODAY

GREETER: 8:30-*Volunteer*/ 10:45-Sharon Branigan

SOUND: 8:30-Seth Miller / 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer

LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jonah Kincaid

SONG LEADER: Pastor David

LITURGIST: 8:30-Seth Miller / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

WREATH: 8:30-Kincaid family / 10:45-Peters family

LECTOR: 8:30-Alyce Stein / 10:45-Kathy Ballek

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Ruthann Kistler

ALTAR GUILD: Alyce Stein & Patty Stein

COUNTERS: Karen Brown, Jan Stryker

SEXTON: *Volunteers needed*

PHONETREE: Jim Femister

PRAYERS: Mike Zyskowski

PRAYER CARE: Ruthann Kistler (610-217-0397)

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



a congregation of the
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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www.holycrossbethlehem.com or www.holycrossbethlehem.life

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*

Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Karen Brown, *Secretary*

Volunteers Needed, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*

Lisa Wechsler, *Bookkeeper* † Jim Femister, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM

(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

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