

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY – Voters’ Mtg. (immediately after Sunday School) 11:50 AM
Dec 7 & 14 - Advent Midweek Dinner & Services (6 pm & 7 pm respectively)
Dec 10 – Children’s Christmas Service rehearsal (10 am) and
Happy Birthday Jesus Party afterwards**

INVOCATION

**P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.**

HYMN No. 338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 80:1, 3, 14a, 17; 40:1, 3a*

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

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

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

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

L: I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry.

C: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Let us humble ourselves before almighty God as we confess our sins before Him.

(Moment of silence)

L: 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.

C: 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.

L: Beloved of God, the Lord Jesus came into our world to bring us peace and a new way of living with God and with each other. The same Spirit that rested upon Him, has come to rest upon you; the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. Therefore, 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. Forgiven for Christ's sake, let us strive to envision and live the abundant life to which we have been called; in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: He who calls us is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ☩ peace.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE "The Goodness of God" (video)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

During the singing of the hymn, two candles on the Advent wreath are lighted.

HYMN No. 357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vss. 1,5)

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appear. (refrain)**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. (refrain)**

The OLD TESTAMENT READING for the 2nd Sunday in Advent is from the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 11. *Isaiah 11:1–10*

**There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
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.
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,
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.
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.**

**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.
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 cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.**

**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.**

**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.**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 15:4–13* (Paul points to Christ as the source of hope.)

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

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, 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.”**

**And again it is said,
“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”**

**And again,
“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”**

**And again Isaiah says,
“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”**

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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Amen.

VERSE *Zechariah 9:9; Luke 3:4b, 6*

L: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

C: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 3:1–12*

(John the Baptist preached in the wilderness.)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 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.’”

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

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? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 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. 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.

“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. 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.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “Be Thou My Vision” (video)

SERMON “True Repentance Leads to the Abundant Life” Pastor Vern

CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand

**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 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.**

**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.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to
their needs.**

**Come, O Lord, among us, that as people united in faith, we may witness to the Good
News that is ours in Christ Jesus. With hope we pray:**

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

- L: Come, O Lord, with Your presence on earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule there be times of peace. Come to our nation, that we find joy in that which is done through it by the leaders and by the people. With hope we pray:**
- C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**
- L: Come, O Lord, give us the vision of Your kingdom and enable us walk in Your Spirit that Your love and blessing be evident in all that we say and do. With hope we pray:**
- C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**
- L: Come, O Lord, and bring Your merciful aid to the special concerns on our hearts today, including health and family needs and situations that are part of everyone's life. Remember in Your loving kindness all those on our prayer list suffering from various ailments, especially Jerrold Clausius in hospice care and Pastor Perry Schefelker's brother Russ who is experiencing medical issues of concern to their family. With hope we pray:**
- C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**
- L: For The Family of Ernie Kujawa (kwee-ja'-vah), Keatyn Schefelker's grandfather, and all those who have completed their earthly journey in faith and now rest from their labors in eternal peace and joy, serving as witnesses of Your never-ending care, we bless You, O Lord, and ask that we also be numbered with the saints in glory everlasting. With hope we pray:**
- C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**
- L: For those in our church family celebrating milestones in life. For the birthday celebrations of Sloan Colvin, Laurie Tatge and Dennis Brockmeyer and for the Anniversary celebration of Bob and Charla Morton, we praise You, O Christ, and ask for the outpouring of Your blessing upon them, that they may walk in everlasting joy until You return in glory. With hope we pray:**
- C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**
- L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
- C: Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

- P: The Lord be with you.**
C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.**
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER

P: Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to give Himself as a perfect sacrifice for us so that our lives may know true peace and endless joy. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table with thankful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we may continue as the people of Your kingdom of peace, awaiting the eternal feast in glory everlasting.
C: Amen.

P: Remember us in Your kingdom Lord, and teach us to pray, saying:

All: 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.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei) LSB 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us peace.

WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P: Now with the very words of Christ we consecrate and partake of this sacred meal together.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

**(For those communing from the pew;
“Take, and eat the body of Jesus given for you.”)**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**(For those communing from the pew,
“Drink of it, all of you, for the forgiveness of sins.)**

L: Come to the Lord’s Table for all things are now ready.

**DISTRIBUTION “Lamb of God” (video)
LSB 618 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”
LSB 814 “O Bless the Lord, My Soul”**

POST-COMMUNION “O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee” (LSB 632)

**O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee, My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed On me Thy body and Thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart: How good Thou art!**

BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24–26*

**P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.**

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN No. 917 “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name” (vss. 1 & 4)

**Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.**

**Grant us Thy peace through-out our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.**

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!