

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

THEME: God promises to correct all the crookedness of our lives.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

P: Heavenly Father, as we begin this morning we see that You are the One who makes all things new. We want to be made new, that is why we are here this morning. Some of the choices we have made and the way in which life has gone for us have made us feel tired and unproductive. In your forgiveness today, make us alive to serve.....to see the world a new way.....to expect great things from You. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG "Green Book" 36 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

*On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and harken, 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 you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And make us rise to fall no more;
Oh, let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.*

*All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.*

OPENING BLESSING

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

WE CONFESS OUR SINS...

P: Before we continue in our worship and praise, it is fitting for us to admit to God and each other our sinfulness, especially our failure to live our lives with the newness God has given us. Too concerned about our past and the challenges of the future, we have indeed failed to recognize the newness God gives to us each day. During this time of silence we reflect upon the times we have failed to reflect God's light to the world.

(Silence for personal reflection)

C: Gracious God, we come to you in worship because we want to give thanks and praise to you, and to hear your good word of hope and promise. But we gather with the very clear awareness of being sinners in serious need of your grace. We have sinned in our thoughts, our words, our actions. We admit that we have not always kept our priorities in order. We have valued our selfish desires over spiritual values. Forgive us, Lord, and help us by your Spirit to put our spiritual life first, following you as our Savior and Lord.

...HEARING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son for us, and for his sake forgives all our sins. As a servant of God's Word and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

[SONG OF PRAISE "Red Book" 195](#)

[Spirit of the Living God](#)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us all pray together these words:

C: 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. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

[The First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

Isaiah gives the promise of a Savior who will judge with equity.

*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.*

[The Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13](#)

Through endurance and encouragement from the Scriptures we have 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.

[CHOIR ANTHEM "Come Down, Emmanuel" by Pepper Choplin](#)

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist prepares the way of the 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."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG "Red Book" 249 We Have Come Into His House

*We have come into His house gathered In His name to worship Him
We have come into His house gathered In His name to worship Him
We have come into His house gathered In His name to worship Christ the Lord,
Worship Him, Christ, the Lord*

*So Let's lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him
So Let's lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him
So Let's lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him
And Worship Him, Christ, the Lord*

*So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
And Worship Him, Christ, the Lord*

*He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him,
He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him,
He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him,
And Worship Him, Christ, the Lord*

SERMON "When it is okay to make a 180" Pastor Lucke

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

**C: We believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,

And is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

We 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

OFFERINGS

We give our offerings as signs of our lives offered to God in humble thanks and service.

OFFERING SONG "Green Book" 410 We Give Thee but Thine Own

*We give Thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be,
All that we have is thine alone, a trust O Lord from thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as thou blesses us, To thee our firstfruits give.*

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(after each prayer)

P: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING BLESSING

*The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty glides eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.*

*Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.*

*Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Chirst, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death,
Despite the rage of foes.*

*Oh brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes,
And we shall see his face.*

*The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray;
Come quickly, King of Kings.*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC