

Joy of Christ Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Advent – December 5, 2021

MUSIC PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING PRAISE SONG

COME THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

RED BOOK, #254

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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.

ADVENT WREATH

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs 2) **Red Book, #240**

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

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.

LESSONS

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Glory be to the Creator God, and to the Son Jesus Christ and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I 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. ⁷It 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. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Emmanuel

PURPLE BOOK, #36

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

Announcement Response: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In 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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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.**

⁵**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;**

⁶**and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”**

P: The gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SONG: OCOME, O COME (VS 2) RED BOOK, #257

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

CHILDREN’S SERMON & BLESSING

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

RED BOOK, #726

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain

**The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. **Refrain**

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. **Refrain**

THE 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 GOD'S PEOPLE

After the petition: **Hear us, O God. ...**

The Congregation responds: ... **Your mercy is great. Amen.**

PEACE Response: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC OFFERING:

Monnette Forte

(Offerings Brought Forward)

RESPONSE:

The Queen's Prayer

'O kou aloha no Aia i Ka Lani,
A 'o kou 'oia'io, He hemolele ho'i.

Nolai la e ka Haku, Ma lalo Kou 'e heu,
Ko makou maluhia. A mau loa aku no. Amene

Translation:

Your loving mercy is as high as Heaven
And your truth, so perfect.

And so, O Lord protect us beneath your wings
And let peace be our portion. Now and forever more. Amen

BLESSING OF THE OFFERINGS

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 also 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, 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:

SANCTUS

HOLY, HOLY

RED BOOK, pg. 144

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

**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 the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

ADMINISTERING OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD**LAMB OF GOD****PURPLE BOOK, #83**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
 Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me.
 Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, have mercy on me.

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 for whom we wait. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG**HE CAME DOWN****RED BOOK, #253**

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
 he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

DISMISSAL

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

Postlude**COPYRIGHT NOTICES**

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MUSIC

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Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus: Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 He Came Down: Text: Cameroon traditional.