

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024 - 10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 EAST STROOP ROAD
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688
(937) 298-0136

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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."

Road Maintenance

When John the baptizer arrives on the scene, it must mean Jesus is just around the next bend. Yet the path ahead that the prophet Isaiah describes has no bends or curves. It is a way made straight, one on which the rough spots have been smoothed out and the stumbling blocks removed. Our daily lives are rarely, if ever, made straight and smooth, though. The stressors we encounter at work, the difficulties of parenting or caring for family, the challenges that come as we get older fill our paths with twists and turns. Little is plain and simple, in life or in scripture. The point of the gospel is not that everything will be smooth for us if we just have faith. But neither are we hopelessly lost along the way. The good news is that God provides a way forward. Amid the obstacles are also openings.

Preparing our hearts to follow the way of Jesus involves work. Just as maintaining a roadway demands ongoing inspection and service, our spiritual lives and the lives of our faith communities require consistent, long-term attention, care, and commitment. During Advent, we in the church together recommit to the "roadwork" necessary for preparing the way. We open ourselves to receiving the gift of God's creative presence in the world.

Faith is the opening through which God begins this work. We do not baptize ourselves. We are not called to do the work alone. Rather, we are baptized into a community of faith, as members of Christ's body in the world. God's grace given to us in word and sacrament transforms and empowers us to work collectively, to care for one another and God's creation, to work for justice and peace. Life together won't always be smooth or straightforward. There will be obstacles. But by the grace of God, there are also open roads ahead.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pr. Bob Swanson

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come, Emmanuel” | Chancel Choir

Response, sung during the verses:



Come, O come, Em - man - u - el.

Cantor: Holy God, burning bush, now hear.
Holy God, Moses' courage, hear.
Holy God, Miriam's song, now hear.
Holy God, freeing captives, hear.

All: Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Refrain: All



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall



come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Verse 2

Cantor: Holy God, prophets ever long.
Holy God, exiles waiting long.
Holy God, all in prison long.
Holy God, holy God, how long?

All: Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Refrain: All

Verse 3

Cantor: Holy God, swords to plows shall be.
Holy God, greed to grace shall be.
Holy God, strife to peace shall be.
Holy God, earth made whole shall be.

All: Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Refrain: All

OPENING LITANY

In the lonely places,
The wilderness,
Where we stand forlorn,
Windswept and alone,
Your voice calls out:
“Prepare a way for the Lord.”

In the dark places,
The shadows,
Where we hide our fears,
Embrace our tears,
Your voice calls out:
“Prepare a way for the Lord.”

**** GATHERING SONGS**

Prepare Ye the Way

(Music Ministers/**Congregation**)

Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

**Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.**

Yeshua, You reign on high,
You reign on high.
Almighty God, Your love is like no other.

**Yeshua, You reign on high,
You reign on high.
Almighty God, Your love is like no other.**

Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Yeshua, You reign on high,
You reign on high.
Almighty God, Your love is like no other.

**Yeshua, You reign on high,
You reign on high.
Almighty God, Your love is like no other.**

Your love is like no other. Yeah!

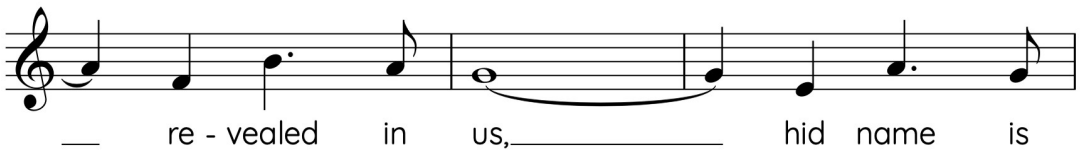
**Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.**



Em-man - u - el, _____ Em-man - u - el, _____ his name is



called _____ "Em-man - u - el": _____ God with us, _____



_____ re - vealed in us, _____ hid name is



called _____ "Em - man - u - el".

CONFESSION

Holy and loving God, **we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Make level the mountains of our pride, and raise up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

** 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.**

** LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come, **let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.**

Advent Week 1 - December 1	Verse 1
<u>Advent Week 2 - December 8</u>	<u>Verse 1, 2</u>
Advent Week 3 - December 15	Verse 1, 2, 3
Advent Week 4 - December 22	Verse 1, 2, 3, 4

Verses



1. Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish
2. Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish
3. Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish
4. Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish



dark - ness. He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el,
 dark - ness. He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd,
 dark - ness. Lift your heads, and lift high the gate - way
 dark - ness. He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings.



God - ful - fills the prom - ise.
 gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 for the King of glo - ry.
 Let your lights be shin - ing!

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

A reading from the book of Malachi.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Luke 1:68-79

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)

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

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

A reading from the book of Philippians.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

** GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

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..**

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pr. Bob Swanson

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another .

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

For those of you communing at home or in the pews.

COMMUNION - Receiving the Lord's Tangible Presence

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond **Amen**.*

Communion Statement ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

** BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

** SENDING HYMN

You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)

(Music Ministers /All)
You are holy. **You are holy.**
You are mighty. **You are mighty.**
You are worthy. **You are worthy-**
Worthy of praise. **Worthy of praise.**
I will follow. **I will follow.**
I will listen. **I will listen.**
I will love you, **I will love you,**
All of my days. **All of my days.**

(All Men)
I will sing to and worship.
The King who is worthy.
And I will love and adore him,
And I will bow down before him.
And I will sing to and worship
The king who is worthy.
And I will love and adore him,
And I will bow down before him.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.

(All Women)
You are Lord or lords. You are King of kings.
You are mighty God, Lord of everything.
You're Emmanuel. You're the great I Am.
You're the Prince of Peace who is the Lamb.
You're the living God. You're my saving grace.
You will reign forever, Ancient of Days.
You are Alpha, Omega - beginning and end.
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.

(Men)

I will sing to and worship
The King who is worthy.
And I will love and adore him,
And I will bow down before him.
And I will sing to and worship
The king who is worthy.
And I will love and adore him,
And I will bow down before him.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.

(Women)

You are Lord of lords. You are King of kings.
You are mighty God, Lord of everything.
You're Emmanuel. You're the Great I Am.
You're the Prince of Peace who is the Lamb.
You're the living God. You're my saving grace.
You will reign for ever, Ancient of Days.
You are Alpha, Omega - beginning and end.
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and Friend.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.
You're my Prince of Peace,
And I will live my life for you.

**** DISMISSAL**

Assistant Minister

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.

Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

Upcoming Commemorations

Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America

Sunday, November 24, 2024

Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748

Monday, November 25, 2024

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

Andrew, Apostle

Saturday, November 30, 2024

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22920.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.