



**+ Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 5, 2021**



**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
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## **+ Second Sunday of Advent Order for Worship**

*Forerunners and messengers prepare for the advent of our God.*

*While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day,  
Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ 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 Jesus  
and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

***A few notes on precautions and protocols, which apply to everyone regardless of vaccination status, as St. Andrew returns to worship in the sanctuary:***

- Face masks that fully cover both your mouth and nose are required at all times for everyone over the age of two (2) – the only exception being the brief moment of moving mask aside to partake in Holy Communion.
- Outside food and drink are thus not permissible during worship.
- Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet will be observed at all times for people not from your household.
- We invite the congregation to voice responses and prayers during worship. A cantor will sing the hymns with a mask on, and the rest of the congregation is encouraged to follow along silently.
- We ask that everyone use hand sanitizer, either your own or from the bottles throughout the sanctuary, especially prior to Holy Communion.

***Worship Services are live streamed to multiple online platforms.***

***By attending worship, you agree that your image and voice may be broadcast.***

## Welcome

## Prelude

## Gathering

*Please rise as you are able.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's tender mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: 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  
and to care for our neighbors.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We seek identity and security through material wealth.**

**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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

*One of the best-known customs for the season of Advent is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness in the Northern Hemisphere strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is intended as an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, and/or the wheel of time.*

*Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath – as we gather in worship as a congregation each week, we progressively light the candles of the wreath and pray together.*

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, for you send messengers to prepare the way of your coming among us. You have raised up for us a Savior, shown mercy to our forebears, and remembered your holy covenant, offering the promise of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance and to follow in your way of righteousness. Shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and guide our feet into the way of peace.

**C: Amen.**

P: O people of hope, come,

**C: Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord.**

*We ask that those present in the church sanctuary refrain from singing the hymns aloud.  
The assembly gathered from afar is encouraged to sing!*

**Gathering Hymn**

**Blessed Be the God of Israel**

**ELW 250**

**1 Blessed be the God of Israel  
who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us:  
a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared  
that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies  
and all who wish us harm.**

**2 With promised mercy will God still  
the covenant recall,  
the oath once sworn to Abraham,  
from foes to save us all;  
that we might worship without fear  
and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness  
to serve God all our days.**

**3 My child, as prophet of the Lord  
you will prepare the way,  
to tell God's people they are saved  
from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high  
shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death  
and lead us into peace.**

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944. Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Text: 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188 All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-711239.

## **Greeting**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray.

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.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

### First Reading – Malachi 3: 1-4

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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; <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Luke 1: 68-79

*The responsive reading from Luke's Gospel,  
known as the Benedictus after the blessing in the first line, will be led by the cantor,  
with the congregation responding with the verses indicated in bold.*

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

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

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

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
**free to worship you without fear,  
<sup>75</sup>holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

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

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

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

<sup>79</sup>**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**

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

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

## **Gospel Acclamation** (*Spoken*)

**C: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

## **Gospel – Luke 3: 1-6**

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>5</sup>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;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

## **Sermon**

*Please rise as you are able.*

### **Hymn of the Day      Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

***ELW 256***

- 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.**

**To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.**

- 2 For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.**

- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.**



## Prayers of the People

P: Strengthened by God's promises through Jesus Christ,  
we pray for all people and places who yearn for God's presence.

*After each petition*

P: Hear us, O God;

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of new life, you come among us in places we least expect.

Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## Focus on God's Work among Us

*In today's second reading, from Philippians, Paul writes in confidence "that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (v. 6). As our congregation gathers in our annual meeting today and prepares for a new year of mission and ministry, we give thanks for the many ways that God has already been at work among us, bringing good to our lives and those of our neighbors. We look with hope in this Advent season for the new gifts of healing and redemption God will bring to our world through the coming of Christ. In the weeks to come, we will be invited to consider: In what ways will I commit to that good work in my calling as a follower of Jesus? How will I contribute to the good work God is doing among us?*

*Please be seated while the table is being prepared.*

*We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.*

*An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary  
for those who would like to offer gifts as you leave worship today.*

## Meal

*Please rise as you are able.*

## Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray. God of our watching and waiting,

**C: 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.**

## **Dialogue**

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 our thanks and praise.**

## **Preface**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...

... and join their unending hymn.

## **Sanctus**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life ...

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup ...

We look with hope for Christ's coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit ...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours ...  
one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

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

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

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

## **Fraction and Invitation**

### ***Agnus Dei / Lamb of God***

**C: 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Holy Communion**

- *Please use hand sanitizer prior to receiving Communion.*
- *We will not be kneeling at the altar rail due to the need for physical distancing.*
- *Worshipers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *The Communion wafers (regular and gluten-free) have been thoughtfully prepared using the gifts of the congregation by a member of St. Andrew's altar care team, with a drop of wine or grape juice on each. The presiding minister will distribute one to each communicant from the ciborium using sanitary tongs.*
- *When you reach the presiding minister, please indicate if you would like grape juice or a gluten-free wafer.*
- *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament, following physical distancing guidelines.*

- *Everyone is asked to wait until you return to your place to consume the elements, and then promptly replace your mask.*

## **Hymn during Holy Communion**

### **Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!**

*ELW 246*

- 1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!**  
"Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
all you children of the day!"
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,**  
from earth's bondage let us rise;  
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected,**  
come with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next he comes in glory**  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy  
and with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing**  
to the Father and the Son  
with the everlasting Spirit  
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878. Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889.

*When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.*

## **Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

## **Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

God for whom we wait,

in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.

Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

### **Benediction**

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Abbreviations*

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

L: Lector

**C: Congregation**

***ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal***

*Those serving in worship today*

Piano

Cantor

Lector

Director of Faith Formation

Presiding Minister

Lily Cai

Jeff Denlinger

Sue Gaugler

Christopher Atwood

Pastor Ross Carmichael

*Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements*

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