



# SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship  
December 4, 2022  
9:00 a.m.

### Second Sunday of Advent

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Video - Advent Peace**

(please stand)

#### **Candle Lighting Litany**

In this season of longing and anticipation, as streets fill with shoppers, bright lights, and tempting colors . . . ,

**you lead us, Lord, along a different path**

to a desert river and a prophetic voice—

**a call to repentance,**

a call to service,

**a call to immerse ourselves in living water that will never run dry,**

a call to prepare a way in our own lives for the Savior of the world to enter in,

**to know the touch of tender mercy and rest in your forgiving love and peace.**

#### **Candle Lighting Song**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (Tune: Hyfrydol)

Two blue Advent candles are lit as the congregation begins to sing

## Confession

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever.

**Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the One who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on  $\text{†}$  Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" ELW 249*

## Greeting

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

**And also with you.**



# Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

(please be seated)

## Children's Message

## Reading

*Reader:* A reading from Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
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 around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling 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 asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Reader:* This is the Word of the Lord!

*Congregation:* **Thanks be to God!**



## Psalm

*Reader:* The Psalm today is from Psalm 72

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

(please stand)

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” ELW 241 v. 1*

### **Gospel**

Matthew 3:1-12

*Preacher:* The Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

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

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said

to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at 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 one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. 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 will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

*Preacher:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(please be seated)

### **The Message**

Pastor Mark Boster

(please stand)

## Hymn of the Day

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW 257 vs 1, 3 & 4

## The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, he 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.

## The Prayers

*Assisting Minister:* As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You guide all who seek to shepherd your church. Grant wisdom to Bishop Elizabeth and Bishop Stacie, to Pastor Mark and Pastor Ryan, the staff and all who lead and serve in this worshiping community. God, in your mercy.  
**hear our prayer.**

You desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care *especially* those we name aloud or silently in the quietness of our heart (pause for responses....). God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

### Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Greet one another: **"Peace be with you."**

### Offering

"Prepare Ye"

Russell Robinson

Adult Choir with Chris Brittain, soloist

### Offering Prayer

*Assisting Minister:* Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts we offer, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

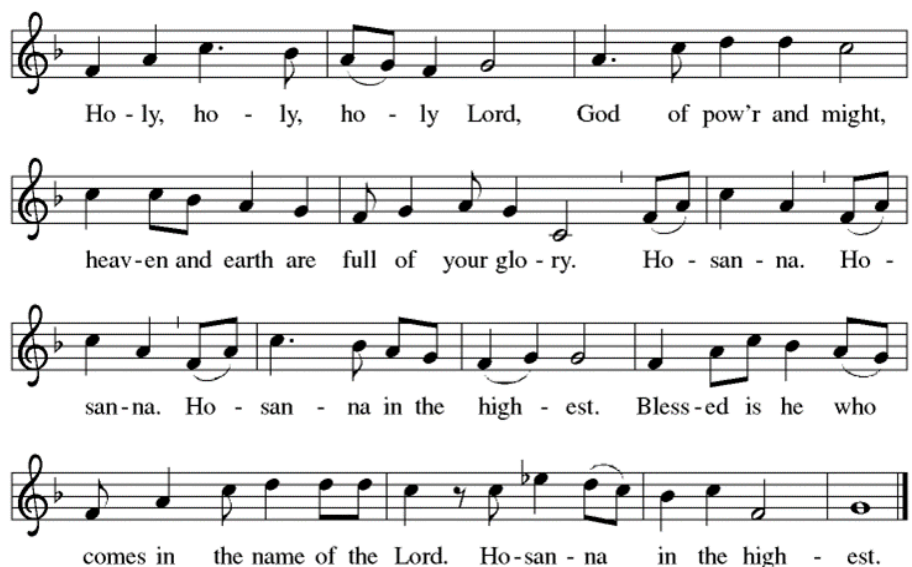
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

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.

## Communion Distribution

### Distribution Music

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* ELW 272

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* ELW 282

### Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus strengthen and keep you in his grace.  
Amen

### Prayer

*Assisting Minister:* Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen



## Blessing

God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

*"People, Look East" ELW 248*

## Dismissal

*Assisting Minister:* Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

