

Second Sunday of Advent
04 December 2022



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Service of Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 3

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

Prelude / Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Second Sunday of Advent

~ Hope for Those Who Are Weary ~

P: The Light shines in the darkness,

C: but the darkness has not overcome it.

P: During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

C: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

P: We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

C: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

P: We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

C: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

P: For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

C: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

Acclamation: Hymn #715 (Refrain)

♪ **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.**

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Confession and Forgiveness (pages 94-96)

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

(There is a time of silence for reflection.)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn #239 “Hark, the Glad Sound”

Greeting (page 138)

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.

♫ Kyrie (pages 138-139)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

♩ **This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation.**

**Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. *concluding:* **C: Amen**

Readings

L: The Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

♩ **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon – Pastor Holloway-Nilsen

Sermon – Pastor Holloway-Nilsen

Hymn #249 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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 Intercession

P: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

(Each petition ends: P: God, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

P: Holy God, gracious and merciful...our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

♫ Great Thanksgiving (page 144)

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.

P: It is indeed right....and join their unending hymn:

♫ 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.

Words of Institution

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.

Holy Communion is celebrated today.

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

♫ 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.

Hymn #256 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Post Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

Post-Communion Canticle (Hymn 286)

♪ **Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.**

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn #246 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Ring of the Bell / Postlude

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Organist: Jason Boussetot or Linda Whitman

Acolyte: Macailah Jacobsen

Lector: Melisa Jacobsen

Communion Assistant: Neil Holmquist

Usher: Dan Burke

Cleaners: Brian Bousselot & Mary Timmerman

Contact Information:

Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Cell Phone: (262) 914-9392

Email: pastorleahhollnil@gmail.com

Church Office

Phone: (563) 246-2622

Email: clparish@fbcom.net

Website: www.clparish.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/clparish1861

This Week At A Glance

Wednesday	10:00 am	Naomi Circle at Diane Christensen's
	5:45 pm	Christmas program practice at Faith
	6:00 pm	Midweek Advent meal at Faith
	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent service at Faith Bible Jam and choir practice
	8:30 pm	High School Bible study at Faith
Thursday	6:00 pm	Outreach committee at Our Savior's
	6:30 pm	Worship committee at Our Savior's
	7:00 pm	Council meetings at Our Savior's
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship service at Our Savior's
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Faith
	10:30 am	Worship service at Faith

Those to keep in prayer the family of Marilyn Malmanger, Sam Huitt, Cathy Goddard, Ruth Braet, Lucy Lee Petersen, Velma Jensen, Megan Mineck Wentland, Ryan Dick, Tim Burke, Barb Johnson; the homebound: Norman Bousselot, Carol Christensen, Shirley Ferguson,

Ron Gasper, Myrna Kay Petersen, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand, and Joan Shelton; and those serving in the military.

This morning, **Calvin Michael Olson**, son of Tim and Molly Olson, will be baptized into the family of God at Faith.

God Squad Christmas Party will be held **December 14th** at 7:30pm at Our Savior's Church for Junior High and High School youth, 'Tis the Season to celebrate Christmas, join us for holiday fun!!!

Annual reports from the following are due in the church office by **Monday, December 19, 2022:** Pastor, Council Presidents, and all committees (Education, Christian Outreach, Worship, Property and Management, Our Savior's Cemetery, and God Squad)

Financial reports, budgets, and audit reports are due in the church office by **Monday, January 16, 2023.**

Advent Schedule

Join the confirmation students and Pastor each Wednesday for our mid-week Advent service. A meal will be served at 6:00 pm. The Advent service will start at 7:00 pm

Dec. 07 – Faith

Dec. 14 – Our Savior's

Dec. 21 – Our Savior's

The **Sunday School Christmas Program** will be held on Sunday, December 18th, at 10:30 am at Faith.

Christmas Eve Candlelight service at Our Savior's at 9:00 pm.

Christmas Day at Faith at 9:00 am. No service at Our Savior's.

The Spiritual Opportunity of John the Baptist

by Teri McDowell Ott

What would make me leave my comfortable home and venture into the wilderness to hear a fiery prophet tell me to repent and prepare the way of the Lord?

If I had a sense that the world was wrong, that the scales of justice were unbalanced, that my body and my soul were languishing from what I was witnessing and perhaps even benefitting from myself, then I might venture into the wild, curious to hear this prophet dressed in camel's hair and foraging for food.

I hope I'd be among the seekers in this passage from Matthew. But I could be like the Pharisee or Sadducee. When the world gets ugly, it is tempting to grab what you can, to align with the powerful and privileged and convince yourself that this is the way of righteousness. Maybe I'd note John's influence and feel unnerved by how many he was baptizing — a sacrament traditionally reserved for the Temple and performed by priests within the approved religious system. Maybe I'd venture into the wilderness not out of curiosity or humility but seeking to discredit John as a weirdo and a fraud.

In the NRSV translation of verse 7, the Pharisees and Sadducees come to John “for baptism.” But the NIV is more accurate in describing them “coming to where [John] was baptizing.” These religious leaders — who didn't get along and were unlikely to work together — were united in their opposition to John. They did not venture into the wilderness receptive to his ministry, but to oppose a threat to their power and influence.

John the Baptist's appearance in Matthew's Gospel is abrupt. There is nothing subtle or graceful about this disrupter extraordinaire. He's come to deliberately shake things up. To prepare the way for the Messiah, John preaches outside the city center, outside worldly power and privilege, where people would not normally go to get their needs

met — spiritual or otherwise. John calls us to meet God off the beaten path and on the margins of our society, among the poor and powerless.

On the second Sunday of Advent, this passage poses some important questions for us spiritual seekers. Will we venture into the wilderness? Will we pause our routines, and disrupt the daily to venture outside our norm? And if we do venture out, how will we approach the strange prophet and the message he proclaims? Will we go as spiritual seekers, open to that which is new and different? Or will we go out bearing the truth as we see it, presuming our righteousness, uncompromising, certain, and ready for a fight?

The wilderness in Israel's history was a place of reckoning — a crucible that exposes those who wander into or through it for who they are, showing what their lives have become. We can still learn a lot from the people and prophets living in these wilderness places. Activist and author adrienne maree brown writes that we should seek out those residing on the margins, “not to be nice, but because those who survive on the margins tend to be the most experientially innovative — practicing survival-based efficiency, doing the most with the least.”

There is spiritual opportunity outside our realm of comfort if we are open and curious, and willing to confess where we have gone wrong. Salvation and survival wait for us in the wilderness — especially in the One for whom John's ministry proclaims: “Prepare the way of the Lord;” “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near” (v. 3, v.2).

Let us not be too far away or too full of ourselves to hear and respond to this prophetic call.