

He who began
a good work
in you
will bring it
to completion
at the day
of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6, ESV



✝ **Sunday, December 8, 2024** ✝
✝ **Second Sunday of Advent** ✝
✝ **Traditional Service – 8:30 am** ✝

Welcome in Jesus' Name

May God richly bless you as you worship Him. If you are a guest with us, we want you to feel welcome; you honor us with your presence, and we are glad to have you here. Please fill out the Attendance Registration located in your bulletin. Prayer requests can also be made on the same insert. If you have a specific prayer request that you would like the Pastor to pray for during the Prayers of the Church, please fill out the bulletin insert and give it to an usher, who will then deliver it to the Pastor.

Holy Communion

We celebrate the Lord's Supper as part of our worship service, on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month during the 8:30am service and the 2nd & 4th Sunday during the 10:30am service.

We invite those who share our confession of faith, namely, that Jesus is truly present in, with & under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to commune with us. Those who share a different confession or have not yet been instructed in the Lord's Supper are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. We offer individual cups. The light-colored cups in the center are grape juice instead of wine. Pastor will be available prior to the worship service to answer any questions about Holy Communion.

To Our Guests

We often have guests in worship from all over the world. Please introduce yourself to Pastor or a Greeter before or after the worship service.

Restrooms

Restrooms and changing tables are located out the back of the sanctuary and down the hallway.

Out of respect for your fellow worshippers & those who have diligently prepared for this worship service, we ask that you **silence your cell phones** & keep conversation to a minimum prior to the service.

Large Print Bulletin: If you desire a sight-saving bulletin, please ask an usher.

Flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Lynne Downs in honor of the birthdays of her grandchildren Beau, Veronica, Max and Sofia; and by Joanne Fries in memory of her daughter Janice March's birthday.

Prelude: "Advent Procession" by Phil Lehenbauer

Welcome and Announcements

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace. Like the first candle, it is also blue. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," the second Advent candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this second candle recalls that after all of the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace. Jesus is our peace, and our pathway to return to God. Be embraced by the peace of Jesus "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'" Malachi 3:6-7

Please stand for the final verse of the opening hymn

Opening Hymn - On Jordan's Bank

LSB #344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Response

Psalm 66:1-12

P Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!

C Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

P All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.”

C Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

P He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

C There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—

P let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,

C who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

P For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

C You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

P you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;

C yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation.

Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Reading of Confession

Psalm 51

- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- C** **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**
- P** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- C** **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**
- P** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- C** **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**
- P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- C** **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**
- P** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
- P** Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- C** **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

*****We pause for a moment of self-reflection on God's Word*****

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 291

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Song of the Day - Hark the Glad Sound

LSB #349 st. 1-2

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

P Let us pray.
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

Old Testament

Malachi 3:1-7b

A God prepared the way. He prepared the way for peace. Even though we as humans decided to go a different route, God remained faithful in fulfilling His promise. As a result we are not consumed by God's wrath and punishment. Yet, He has refined and cleansed us. Listen to these words from Malachi chapter 3:

¹“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, 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 sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 1:2-11

A Approve what is excellent! This is not an easy task. Yet, Paul prays for the Philippians that they may do just that. Today, May God grant you knowledge and discernment so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. This is my prayer for all of you. The Epistle is from Philippians chapter 1:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-20

P This morning you will not find peace, or will you? John is very clear that those who disobey God will suffer His wrath. However, for those who abide in God's truth, repent of their sins, and turn back to God, there shall be great peace. Listen to John as even today, he proclaims these words for our hearing, that we may always walk in God. The Gospel is from Luke chapter 3:

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he 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 Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

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

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,

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

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect

no more than you are authorized to do.”¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed...

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Sermon Hymn - Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB #343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000826
Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Cleaned, Prepared...At Peace

Offering: "On Jordan's Bank" by Paul Manz

Please stand

Offertory - Take My Life

LSB #783 st. 1 & 6



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its trea - sure store;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870
Text and tune: Public domain

Versicles

286

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C let my cry come to You.
P In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
C for You answer me.
P Hide Your face from my sins,
C and blot out all my iniquities.
P Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C and renew a right spirit within me.
P Cast me not away from Your presence,
C and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
P Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C and uphold me with a willing spirit.
P Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
C my lips will praise You.
P For You have been my help,
C and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.
P Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
C unite my heart to fear Your name.
P I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
C and I will glorify Your name forever.
P May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
C May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

- P** Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
- C** **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**
- P** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
- C** **listen to my plea for grace.**

Prayer of the Church

This morning all prayers will end with the Pastor saying, "Lord in Your mercy," and the congregation response is "hear our prayer."

Lord's Prayer

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- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

- C** **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.

Blessing

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Closing Hymn - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB #357 st. 1-4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

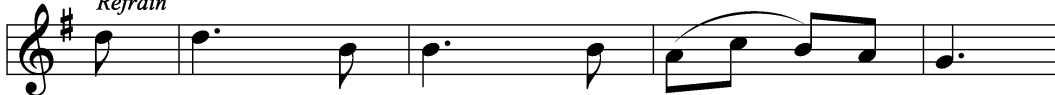


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



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



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

The Dismissal

- P** And it is my prayer that your love may abound with knowledge and discernment,
- C** so that we may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.
- P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!

Postlude: "Toccata on 'O Come O Come Emmanuel'" by James Denton

Acknowledgments

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Upcoming Service Schedule

- 12/11 – Mid-week Advent Service 9:00 am and 7:00 pm
- 12/18 – Mid-week Advent Service 9:00 am and 7:00 pm
- 12/24 – Christmas Eve – Candlelight Service – 4pm & 7pm
- 12/25 – Christmas Day – 10:00 am

Please join us for:

- 12/17 – 2:00 pm Christmas Caroling at Ft Lauderdale Rehab
- 12/19 – 7:00 pm All school musical – We Three Spies –

LCMS Foundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Your estate plan can enable you to express your Christian faith. Around the holidays, we do not want to become morbid, discussing topics that are difficult. But if the opportunity presents itself, consider sharing with family your confidence about care for your body at life's end, or the joy in your heart about directing God's things through your estate plan. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you talk through what you want to share. For assistance, contact Tony Hunt 260-222-1291 or tony.hunt@lfnd.org

Opportunities at Shepherd of the Coast

✠8:30 am – A traditional worship service in the classic Lutheran liturgical style.

✠9:30 am – Sunday School / 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study

✠10:30 am – Praise Service – A contemporary worship service that is geared to families with young children.

Wednesdays during Advent – 9:00 am service with school children
7:00 pm evening service

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