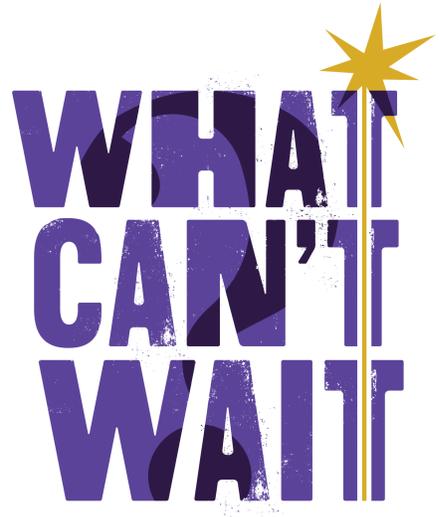


December 4, 2022 Second Sunday of Advent

You are invited to read responses found in **bold
*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit*

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!



we GATHER here

Prelude — “Kingsfold”

Setting by Anne Krentz
Nancy Timm- handbells

Words of Welcome

*Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Creator God—

**Not a day goes by when you do not invite us to be
peacemakers and advocates,
listeners and good Samaritans.**

**Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be a
friend to a stranger
and a neighbor to those in need.**

**Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be the
people you call us to be,**

**and yet, day after day, we lose sight of
your hope for this world.**

**Forgive us for walking a different path,
and grant us the strength to prepare a
new way—
your way—here.**

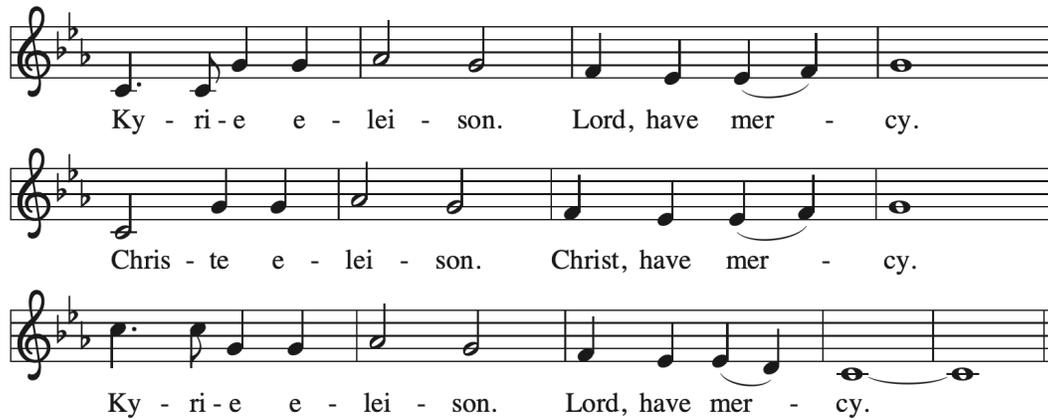
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Go forth boldly in the assurance that your
sins are forgiven
in the name of the one who is coming and is
already here,

✠ Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***Kyrie** — from *All Creation Sings*, Setting Twelve



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

***Advent Prayer Litany**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.
Prepare the way!
Deck the halls and light the candles.
Prepare the way!
Open the doors and sing a song of hope.
Prepare the way!
Make space in our hearts for a new kind of love.
Christ is coming.
Prepare the way! Amen.

***Advent Candle Lighting Litany: Peace Can't Wait**

Voice A: I will wait for the sky to clear.
Voice B: I will wait for the plot to thicken.
Voice A: I will wait for vacation to arrive.
Voice B: I will wait for snow to fall.
Voice A: I will wait for dinner to be ready.
Voice B: I will wait for you to be confident.
Voice A: I will wait for my child to walk.
Voice B: I will wait for the leaves to change.
Voice A: I will wait for the dust to settle.
Voice B: I will wait for the lab results.
Voice A: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

Voice B: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for peace.
Voice A: This world is rampant with division, walls, grudge-holding, and self-doubt.
Voice B: I do not want to be a passive bystander in this division.
Voice A: We do not want to be passive bystanders in this division.

Voice B: So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder that we have a role to play.
Voice A: May the desire to sow peace kindle in us like a light in the darkness. Amen.

All sing "Wait for the Lord" (hymn no. 262) while the Advent wreath is lit:
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the book of Isaiah — 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 Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 — Sung all together in unison

Give the king your jus- | tice, 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 a- | mong 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 wa- | ter 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. A- | men. Amen.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans — Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

May 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.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — hymn no. 257, stanza 1

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

***Gospel** — Matthew 3:1-12

The Gospel of Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Hymn — no. 249

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

*Affirmation of Faith — The 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 to the dead.
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 Intercession

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of promise, your reign has come near. Call your people to the way of repentance and inspire your church to bear fruit in the world through acts of faithful service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and all species whose lives are intertwined. Repair and preserve ecosystems, that all life on earth may be sustained. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach those with power and privilege to serve the vulnerable. Give to all leaders wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and a heart of compassion for the world you so love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the poor, set tables of abundance in all places where hands are empty, where stomachs ache with hunger, and where hearts and minds suffer pain. Feed and heal all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, renew in your people all joy and peace in believing, especially those facing anxiety, depression, or alienation. Guide this community of faith to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you promise to take away our sin and gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors on earth, freed from pain and the power of death, especially our departed loved ones. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

Offering

Music at the Offering

“Pascagali”

Setting by Reison

we SHARE the meal

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus — from *Setting Twelve, All Creation Sings*

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

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

*Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, 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.

In gratitude to God, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **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.**

*Invitation to Communion

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.
All are welcome here at Christ's Table.
God can't wait to meet you here.

Distribution of Communion

Canticle — hymn no. 250

Hymn — no. 254

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Communion Blessing and Prayer

God of abundance,
we give you thanks that in this holy meal
you have invited us to feast with you and one another.
May the taste of your love remain with us,
and may our words and our work in your name
invite others into your bountiful grace.
Send us from your table to proclaim your presence,
even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

we DEPART for service

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 241

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

***Blessing & Dismissal**

What can't wait? **Hope for a better day.**

What can't wait? **Peace and repentance, among and within us.**

What can't wait? **Joy and delight! Our cup runs over.**

What can't wait? **Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, and love for creation.**

God is waiting, and God is ready. **Starting here and now—let us worship Holy God. Amen.**

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude** — “Fugue in C Major”

Setting by Dietrich Buxtehude

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

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Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Music Leader: Sharon Malm

Audio/Video: Timmy Culuris, Brett Peterson

Greeters: Raina Roehmildt, Amelia Staples

Reader: Rebekah Roehmildt

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, John Nadeau

Acolytes: Charlotte Loken/Avery Loken/Colton Loken

Communion Preparers: Banks Family

Communion Servers: Sharon Domier

Bread Bakers: Shirb Sylvester

Announcements

- **Devotional booklets** will continue to be available in the Heartbeat this coming week. Please contact Angela if you would like a black and white version printed for you. Hard copies are available in the gathering area!
- Please attend **our congregation meetings** today after worship. Also on Jan. 29. Your participation is very important!
- **Advent Midweek Worship**: Featuring *Holden Evening Prayer* by Marty Haugen each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **The Giving Tree**: The Altar Guild invites you to contribute to the Giving Tree. This money will be directed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This is a congregational fund that supports people in need. The Giving Tree is located in the Gathering Space during the Advent Season. To make a donation take an envelope off the Giving Tree. Fill out the enclosed card indicating the person or persons you are honoring or remembering with your contribution. Place the card and your donation in the envelope. Place the envelope in the offering plate or take it to the church office. Lastly, place a star on the tree to indicate your donation. Thank you for your contributions.
- **We encourage youth of all ages to attend worship on Sundays!** Children are a blessing and we don't mind a little noise! Busy Bags are available in the back and there are lots of activities near the Pray Ground rug!
- While we are not currently staffing our **Nursery**, it is fully functional and available for families to utilize during our worship. Christmas Eve Services and Christmas Day: Nursery Available & Will Be Staffed!
- **Thank you** to Pat Pehrson, Jake Pehrson, and Dave Pehrson for setting up the Nativity scene outside of church prior to the start of Advent. It looks wonderful!

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Joann Muesing, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth and Gene Roemhildt.
- We pray for Allen Storkson, Shanon Nowell's father-in-law. He is hospitalized and recently diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia.
- We pray for Ellis Jones who was recently hospitalized and is improving.
- We pray for Dan Polzin who is mourning the loss of his father Ken.
- We pray for the family of Grant Block who passed away on November 16.
- We pray for all those mourning the recent loss of loved ones.
- We pray for peace around the world; for all affected by natural disasters; and, for healing and wholeness in the lives of all who are ill.
- We pray for the family of Galen Ribar who passed away on November 30.