



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

People Look East arr. by Craig Phillips

St. John's Choristers

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Confession and Forgiveness

Please Stand

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 the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. 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.

Gathering Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)

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.

Kyrie (from Missa Seraphica) – St. John's Choir

**During Advent and Lent, the Hymn of Praise is omitted.*

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

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

L: ¹See, 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. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

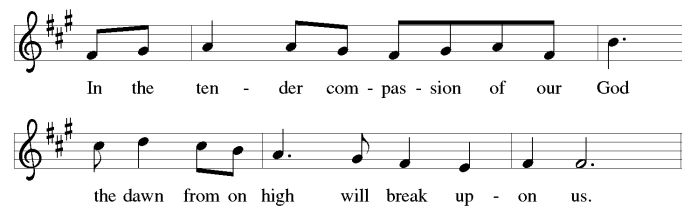
For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Psalm 1:68-79



Luke 1:78
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⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
you have come to your people and | set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,
born of the house of your | servant David. R**

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

⁷²**to show mercy | to our forebears,
and to remember your | holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:

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

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge | of salvation
by the forgiveness | of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion | of our God
the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. R**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

L³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I 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. ⁷It 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. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6


P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹In 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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He 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 the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out 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 be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Kay Johnson

Please Stand

Hymn of the Day

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry (ELW 249)

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**C: 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 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.**

Please be seated

Prayers of Intercession

A: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

A: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

A: God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

A: Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

A: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

A: Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace, with special care in our hearts for Muriel Leafstedt, Ruth Haas, Chris Gates, Amy Cooley, Meesha Dumas, Britt Smith, Gloria Boenisch, Chris Maroudas, Bill Brewer, Ernie Clauss, Liam Fitch, Linda Okerstrom, Beverly R., Lauren, Shella Vela, Carl Luddeke, Cheri and Kenny Knippa, Albert Tietze, Kevin Schaeffer, and Buick Esquivel and Family. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great

A: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

Please Stand

Peace

A: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you. *(Please greet those nearest you with these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")*

Please be seated

Offering

Offertory

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People
St. John's Choir

Offertory Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (ELW 884)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Musical score for 'Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics: 'Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;'. The second system has the lyrics: 'praise him a -bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.'

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

Offering Prayer

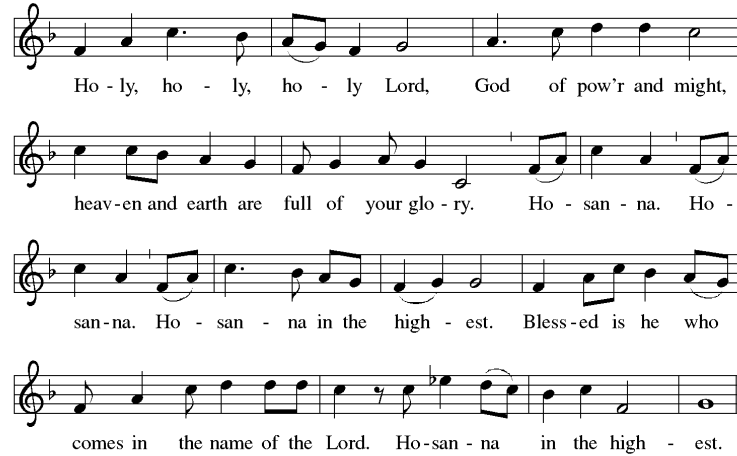
A: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

Musical score for 'Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of four lines of music, each with a treble staff and lyrics below it. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
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.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

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 remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**

P: When we eat this bread we share in the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share in the blood of Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be Seated

Hymns During Holy Communion

I Am the Bread of Life (ELW 485)

All Are Welcome (ELW 641)

O Savior, Precious Savior (ELW 820)

Holy Communion

Please Stand

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

C: **Amen.**

Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254)

Benediction

P: Wherever you go, may God go with you: May he go before you to show you the way ... behind you to encourage you ... beside you to befriend you ... above you to watch over ... and within you to give you peace. In the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend. **Amen**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Psalm 42/Genevan setting by Craig Phillips

Announcements:

The Fall Congregation Meeting will be this Sunday, December 5, 2021 following the worship service.

The Call Committee has recommended a Pastoral candidate, Pastor Caleb Jeffers as our next Pastor. Pr. Jeffers will be preaching here at St. John's on Sunday, December 12th and will be available following the service for the congregation to get to know him and ask questions. A special Congregational Meeting has been set for Sunday, December 19th for the purpose of voting on the recommendation of the Call Committee to call Pr. Jeffers as our Pastor.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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