

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 5th, 2021

8:30 a.m. Service

Second Sunday of Advent

Gift of Peace

Introduction for the Day: Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Ann Williams

(Please stand as you are able)

Opening Dialogue

This season of Advent confronts many of our emotions.

Sometimes we are confused, unsure of what is happening in our lives.

"Do not be afraid. The child is from the Holy Spirit."

God is with us.

The child shall be called Emmanuel.

And we will all share tidings of comfort and joy.

O God who brings comfort and joy, when the world baffles us with conflicting messages and puzzling events, speak to our confusion. Comfort us with the knowledge that you are with us in times of clarity and times of confusion. In Jesus' name we pray.

Advent Proclamation

We Are Waiting for Jesus

We are wait - ing for__ Je - sus; Je - sus__ brings peace.

We are wait - ing for__ Je - sus; Je - sus__ brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.

We are wait - ing for__ Je - sus; Je - sus__ brings peace.

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Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing, hope, and peace.

We are people of faith who wait in for the light of hope and peace. We wait for Christ.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin and come quickly to save us.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

Gathering Song

#264 Prepare the Royal Highway

Advent Greeting

May the hope of this season embrace you with God's grace.

And also with you.

(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting - The Gift of Peace

On this Advent journey, we see the brokenness of the world that surrounds us.

We long for PEACE in our world, where we are made whole.

As we look around us, we see the hostility that exists between neighbor and nation.

O Lord, instill PEACE between us that we might grow closer to one another.

As we look beside us, we see fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

Lord God, give us PEACE that we might heal our relationships.

As we look within ourselves, we confess the reconciling words we have yet to speak and restoring deeds we have yet to do.

Creator God, may your PEACE which surpasses all understanding bring reconciliation to our very souls.

O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of hope and peace. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your light for those who live in darkness. Establish your love throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

Blessed be God forever. Amen. *[The first and second Advent candles are lit.]*

Advent Response

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

(We will sing this response two times)

The musical notation is written on three staves in 3/4 time. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love! These are gifts you bring from above, Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be light of your hope, reflected in me.

Word

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

A reading from Malachi, chapter 3.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Emmanuel

Em-man - u - el, _____ Em-man - u - el, _____ his name is called _____
 _____ Em-man - u - el. _____ God with us, _____ re - veal'd in
 us, _____ his name is called _____ Em-man - u - el.

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(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A reading from Matthew the 1st Chapter.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Word of God is scripture, among us,
The Word of God is within us. Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Ann Williams

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the hymn of the day)

Service of Holy Baptism for Liam Brooks Bankert

(Please follow along in your Hymnals on Page 227)

Presentation

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

(Please stand as you are able)

Prayers of Intercession

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

Call to Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus. Hear our Prayer



Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus. Hear our prayer.

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...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

Prayer Response

Come, Lord Jesus. Hear our Prayer



Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus. Hear our prayer.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

Prepare Ye by Marc Robinson – Senior Choir

Soloists: Jan Johnson and John Schilling

Percussion: Brian Smith and Annette Olson

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory Response

With Joy, O Lord, Our Gifts We Bring

1. With joy, O Lord, our gifts we bring, A tri - bute
2. Em - ploy, O God, the gifts here shared That in the
to our Ad - vent King, Who comes with - in our midst to
world_ may be pre - pared The way of Christ, whose name we
dwell As God with us, Em - man - u - el.
bless, Who comes, the Lord our right - eous - ness.

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Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Tune: Puer Nobis, LM.

Thanksgiving for the Word

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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.**

Sending

Blessing

The peace of God accompany your waiting, the light of ✠ Christ warm your hearts, and the joy of the Spirit fill you with peace. **Amen.**

Dismissal

The coming of the Lord is near. Go in peace, prepare the way. **Thanks be to God.**

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

See, 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.

or Baruch 5:1-9 [not printed]

Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

I 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.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

In 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.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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