

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

December 5th, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

The 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

Call to Worship

"The Call to Prepare" - Godsbells

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

*Every 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;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'* "

(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

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'We are wait - ing for__ Je - sus; Je - sus__ brings peace.' (first two staves), 'Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.' (third staff), and 'We are wait - ing for__ Je - sus; Je - sus__ brings peace.' (fourth staff).

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)

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love! These are gifts you
bring from above, Je - sus, Em - man - u - el, come to
be light of your hope, re - flect - ed 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 Baptist's Cry

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

Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

**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.**

(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 (see music above)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

All Earth Is Hopeful – Toda la Tierra arr. by Curt Oliver
John Paradowski, Piano

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory Response

What Shall I Render to the Lord?

What shall I ren - der to__ the__ Lord for all the__ gifts to me?



I will lift up sal - va - tion's cup and praise God_ thank - ful - ly.



For__ bread and cup__ now__ off - ered_ here, the gifts of Christ, my King,



I pay my vow in God's house now, my gifts I__ glad - ly bring.

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 Music: English Folk Tune. Tune: Forest Green, CMD.
 Offering Prayer

Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.

Receive these humble offerings, now - signs of hope & peace, pledges of our service - and lead us, by your Spirit, to live Godly lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your saving justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal the entire suffering world.

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

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming with righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and 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.**

Invitation to Communion

God fills the hungry with good things.

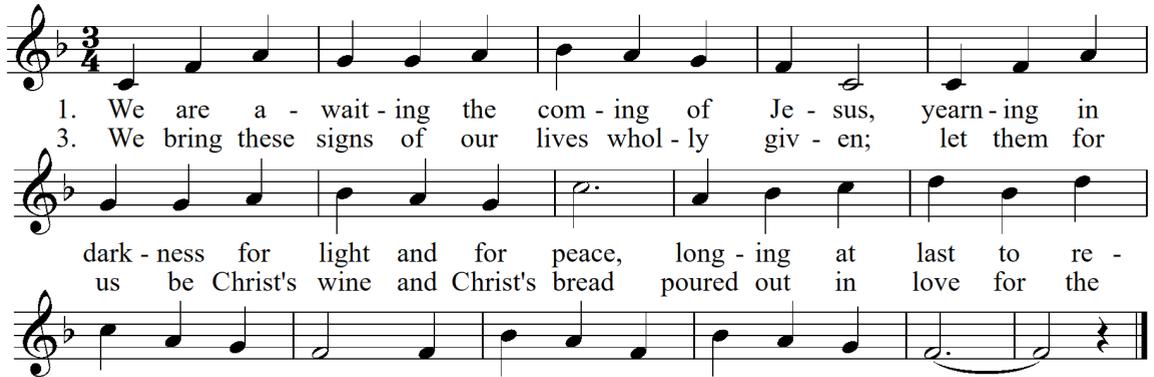
The rich are sent empty away.

Come with joy to the feast.

(Please be seated)

Communion Response

We Are Awaiting the Coming of Jesus [Stanzas 1 & 3]



1. We are a - wait - ing the com - ing of Je - sus, yearn - ing in
 3. We bring these signs of our lives whol - ly giv - en; let them for
 dark - ness for light and for peace, long - ing at last to re -
 us be Christ's wine and Christ's bread poured out in love for the
 joice on that day when all peo - ple join in this feast. _____
 heal - ing of all and bro - ken that all may be fed. _____

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Communion Hymn

#241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

(Please stand as you are able)

Post-Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which you have now just received,
 strengthen you and keep you in his love and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

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.

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.

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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