

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 5, 2021



Messiah Lutheran Church, Amherst, NH

PRELUDE — Improvisation on O Come O Come Emmanuel

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

water is poured into the font

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy
Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH LIGHT ONE CANDLE (V. 1 & 2)

ELW 240

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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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 - uite too may 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 will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 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*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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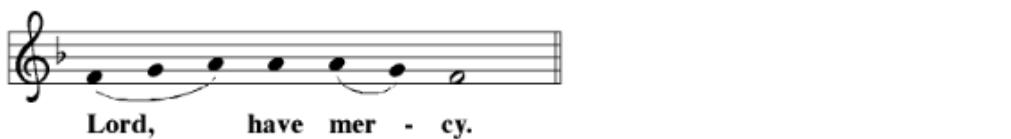
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ \ddagger , the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.



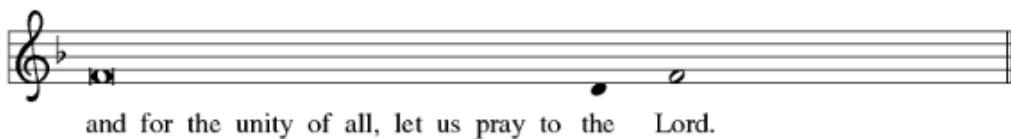
Musical notation for the first petition. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes in common time, key signature one sharp. The lyrics are: "In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Musical notation for the second petition. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes in common time, key signature one sharp. The lyrics are: "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



Musical notation for the third petition. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes in common time, key signature one sharp. The lyrics are: "For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord."

Lord, have mercy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains a melodic line with various note values and rests, corresponding to the lyrics "let us pray to the Lord." and "Lord, have mercy."

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Refrain

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. It features a repetitive melodic pattern consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

A continuation of the musical staff from the previous section, showing the same melodic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. It contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. It contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

A musical score for soprano or alto voice in G major, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia," followed by a repeat sign.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

A continuation of the musical score for soprano or alto voice in G major, common time. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a final note on the word "ia."

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A musical score for soprano or alto voice in G major, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and"

2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

A continuation of the musical score for soprano or alto voice in G major, common time. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a final note on the word "his."

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

A musical score for soprano or alto voice in G major, common time. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia," followed by a repeat sign.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

A continuation of the musical score for soprano or alto voice in G major, common time. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a final note on the word "ia."

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast
of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

A reading from Malachi the 3rd chapter:

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 93 (ELW) (chanted responsively by all):

One: Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
 you have come to your people and I set them free.

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

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

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

One: This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:
 to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,

All: **free to worship you | without fear,
 holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life.**

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

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

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

All: **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.**

SECOND READING:

A reading from Philippians the 1st chapter:

³I 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SPOKEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd Chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

ELW 255

CREED

With the whole church let us confess our faith in the words of 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 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

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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 (especially). Grant them healing and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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.

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share the peace with those around you without making contact or moving around the sanctuary.

MEAL

OFFERING The basket is in the narthex. Please place your offering there.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

Amen.

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

REFLECTION ON COMMUNION

We have tasted and seen that the Lord is good.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and
nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of
Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim
your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

ELW 254

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

 Improvisation on O Come O Come Emmanuel

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Guest Preacher and Presider: Rev. Linda Fraser Assisting Minister: Karla Seckinger

Musician: Linnea Micciulla Lector: Kathy Brundage

Rev. Linda Fraser is presiding with the permission of Bishop James Hazelwood
of the New England Synod of the ELCA.



Pastoral Care Coverage

December 5	Rev. Linda Fraser	603-732-2435
December 6-December 7	Rev. Ed Costa	603-703-5200
December 8-December 15	Pastor Erica Kennedy	603-809-1765

If you forget you can always reach out to Joanne and she'll direct you in the right way.