



December 10, 2025

The Second Wednesday in Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Invocation

Therefore as you go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-19

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

- ♪ Lo, how a rose e’er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming As prophets long have sung, It came, a flow’ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.
- ♪ Isaiah ’twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind. To show God’s love aright,
She bore to us a Savior, When half-spent was the night.
- ♪ This flow’r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev’rywhere. True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us And lightens ev’ry load.
- ♪ O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know: Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven, And to the endless day.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 359—Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948; Text: Public domain

Opening Sentences

The Lord Himself will give you a sign.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Jeremiah 33:16

Psalmody

Psalm 61

Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;

From the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,

For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings!

For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!

May he be enthroned forever before God; appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O light in our darkness, by Your Word, You brighten our path. When days are dark and our direction unclear, send Your guiding Spirit that we might be assured of Your nearness and cling to Your promises; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Hosea 2:18–23

¹⁸And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.

²¹“And in that day I will answer, declares the Lord,

I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth,

²²and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel,

²³and I will sow her for myself in the land.

And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’; and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Ephesians 1:11–14

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

♪ Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

~Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

♪ Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song? ~Glo - - - ria...

♪ Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. ~Glo - - - ria....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 368—Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French; Text: Public domain

Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 1:18–25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

♪ The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.

♪ Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.

♪ Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.

♪ Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see His face.

♪ The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 348—Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.; Text: Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

Matthew 1:18–25

“We Wait For Jesus, With Jesus: Joseph”

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord’s Prayer

Closing Sentences

He who is mighty has done great things for me.

Holy is His name.

To God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.

Amen. Christ died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!

Luke 1:49

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Amen.

Numbers 6:24–26

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Joy to the World”

- ♪ Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.
- ♪ Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- ♪ No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
- ♪ He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 387—Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; Text: Public domain

Postlude