



December 7, 2022

The Second Wednesday in Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

♪ Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

♪ Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

♪ Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord,
at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 363-Text: Franz Joseph Mohr 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young 1820-85;
Tune: Franz Xavier Gruber 1787-1863; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!

For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm. *Psalm 33:8-9*

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love,

That He may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

Psalm 33:19-21

Confession and Absolution

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Confident of receiving God’s great mercy, let us confess together that we by nature are sinful and that through our thoughts, words, and deeds we have sinned against our God and deserve His punishment now and eternally.

Almighty God, we repent of our sins and ask for Your forgiving grace in our lives.

Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us remission of our sins so that, as Your redeemed people, we may greet you in Advent hope and with trusting hearts serve You in time and in eternity. *A Time of Silence.*

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O Lord, Your angel spoke to Joseph in a dream, declaring that the child to be born to Mary shall be named Jesus, who will save the people from their sins. Just as the angel said, so it happened. Jesus paid with His own life the ransom for our sins. Dwell in our hearts, O Lord, and never leave us. Bring blessing and salvation that forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.
Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated Music: “Hark the Glad Sound” Hymn 349* “In Advent Hope”

♪ In Advent hope we gather here And worship fearfully,
Assured that Christ is coming near To set His people free.

♪ Our Advent-hope hosannas now Expectantly arise
To Jesus Christ, the Savior, King Who comes from Paradise.

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Hebrews 10:19–31

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

²⁶For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“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: German 16th cent, tr. Theodore Baker 1851-1934 vv.1-2, tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth 1845-1925 v.3, tr. John C. Mattes 1876-1948 v.4;
Tune: Koln 1599; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

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 Advent of Our King”

- ♪ The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.
- ♪ The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on To set His servants free.
- ♪ O Zion’s daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.
- ♪ As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite With Him in heav’n to reign.

♪ Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

♪ All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 331-Text: Charles Coffin 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler 1800-76; Tune: Aaron Williams 1731-76;
Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Proclamation of the Word

“Fearfully”

Matthew 1:18–25

Hymn of Response

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v. 6)

♪ O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. ~Rejoice...

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer and grant our petition.

Offering and Musical Offering

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Away in a Manger”

♪ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

♪ The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

♪ Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 364-Text: Little Children's Book, Philadelphia 1885, vv. 1-2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville 1892, v.3
Tune: James R. Murray 1841-1905; setting: Joseph Herl b.1959; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Postlude