

Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024 9:30am



Share Read Talk Pray Bless

Preparation For Worship: In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8

Opening Song

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
Gloria, In excelsis Deo
Gloria, In excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song
Gloria, In excelsis Deo
Gloria, In excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
Gloria, In excelsis Deo
Gloria, In excelsis Deo

See Him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise
Gloria, In excelsis Deo
Gloria, In excelsis Deo

Ministry Spotlight *Share*

Invocation

Pastor: Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: God the Father loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever would believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

People: The promised Messiah came! We celebrate the Advent of His coming. Emmanuel is God with us, and Christ will come again! He is the Prince of Peace, and Lord of all! God is good!

People: God is good!

Pastor: All the time!

People: All the time!

Pastor: God is good!

People: Let us come to Him then with an honest heart to worship Him in spirit and truth.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: We confess our need of forgiveness, and that God's forgiveness is the gift that leads to newness of life. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, born in a manger, died on a cross, and risen from the grave: All to redeem us from sin, death, the devil, and our sinful self. As Paul wrote in Romans 3 "This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance God had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus." Acknowledging the promise and call of God to confess, repent and receive forgiveness, we join in the Apostle John's words:

People: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Forgive me of my sins, I pray.

(Reflection for confession)

Pastor: Jesus laid down His life for our sins to be forgiven. He cleanses us, and calls us clean as we believe and receive His reconciliation. As you have confessed and believed, as a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and according to His Word, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Daily Text

Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly. Psalm 106:6

We hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. Romans 3:28

Let us pray:

People: You are holy, Lord Jesus. I have committed iniquity and wickedness. I regret falling into sinful ways. But you give me hope. I praise and thank you that I am justified by faith. You exchange my sin for your righteousness. My eternal future is secure. With your help I will share your message of salvation, dear Lord. Amen

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But 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. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years."

Second Lesson

Luke 1:68-79

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Third Lesson

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.
People: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.** *Psalm 119:105, John 6:68*

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying 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 become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

People: **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; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Sermon Song

Emmanuel

**Emmanuel Emmanuel
Wonderful Counselor
Lord of life Lord of all
He is the Prince of Peace
Mighty God Holy One
Emmanuel Emmanuel**

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**Emmanuel Emmanuel
Wonderful Counselor
Lord of life Lord of all
He is the Prince of Peace
Mighty God, Holy One
Emmanuel Emmanuel
Emmanuel Emmanuel**

Sermon (Watchword for the Week / Message)

Pastor Knoll

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them. Luke 1:68

Offering Song

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 bright 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, 'til 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 fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there**

Prayers of the Church *Pray*

The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.

Leader: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: **Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.**

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with these words...

Leader: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: **Amen.**

Preface, Proper Preface and Sanctus

Pastor: The Lord be with You.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty & everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

People_(sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Words Of Institution

Pastor: 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 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."

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

People: **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**

Distribution Of Holy Communion

All who sincerely believe in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Communion – that the cup of blessing is the Communion of the blood of Christ and the bread is the Communion of the body of Christ, and sincerely believing that in receiving Him we have the forgiveness of our sins, salvation, and strength for the Christian life, come – partake of the Lord's Supper.

Communion Song

Messiah

**Long awaited precious promise, Son of God and Son of Man
Heaven's glory in a manger, Has come to us in Bethlehem oh
Messiah, Messiah**

**A baby born to save us all
Messiah, Messiah, On our knees we fall**

**All we long for all we needed Shining in a child's eyes
Hope forever death defeated Because of this one only holy night
Messiah, Messiah**

**A baby born to save us all
Messiah, Messiah
On our knees we fall,**

**O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore, Him Christ the Lord**

**Long awaited precious promise, Coming back again
Messiah, Messiah**

**A baby born to save us all
Messiah, Messiah
On our knees we fall,
On our knees we fall**

Nunc Dimittis

Pastor: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the
face of all people;

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People:(Sung)**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Blessing: Child of God, God has looked favorably on us His people and redeems all who turn to Him

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: our service begins!

Closing Song

Go Tell It On The Mountain

**Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born**

**While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light
Go tell it on the mountain Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus, That hailed the Savior's birth
Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born**

**Down in a lowly manger, The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation, That blessed Christmas morn
Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born**

SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

The Mission of the Month is

Food Pantry volunteer needs! The food pantry needs help collecting food at the Celebration of Lights! Please contact Connie Hoeft about helping with this. We will need help during regular pantry hours to sort the food during the following weeks.

Poinsettias are again available to decorate the church for the Christmas season. The cost is \$22. Please use the Mission Envelope to place your order and indicate who the plant is in honor/memory of.

Worship at Zion

Monday 1:00pm Bible Study

Wednesday	6:00pm	G.I.F.T.
	7:00pm	Worship
Saturday	5:00pm	Chapel
Sunday	8:00am	Worship
	9:30am	G.I.F.T. Worship
	11:30am	Swahili-English Worship

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