

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*December 7, 2025*

10:30 a.m. Sunday



## **SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

### **BEAR FRUIT IN KEEPING WITH REPENTANCE**

#### **AS WE GATHER**

The problem with good works is not *that* we should do them but *why*. Our works reflect what it is we believe and hold dear. Works are the fruit of repentance and faith and do not add to what Christ has done in His mighty work of redemption. The call to bear the good fruit of repentance is not to work harder to be saved but to manifest in our everyday lives that we are saved, that we belong to the Lord, and that He has accomplished all things for our salvation. John faced a generation impressed with their works and empty of faith in God's mercy. We should know that doing works is not a choice. Hearts of faith will produce the good fruits of repentance. This is the calling of Christians and the mark of the work of the Spirit in our lives.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### Gathering Song

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LSB 357  
Verses 3,4

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

### Pastoral Greeting

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *John 1:5, 9; 14:27; Luke 2:14; Psalm 4:6–8*

Pastor: We light our second Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: The second Advent candle has been known by a few different names, including the Bethlehem candle, the preparation candle, and the candle of peace. As we await the angelic proclamation of “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased,” we rejoice in the present reality of the peace Christ has assured in and through

Him until perfect and eternal peace is ushered in upon His return. In this season, and until that day, we find comfort in His assurance: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

**People:** **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

**Pastor:** Guided by the light of peace, we respond with the psalmist: "There are many who say, 'Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O LORD!'"

**People:** **You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

**Pastor:** In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

**People:** **for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."**

*Two Advent candles are lit.*


## SONG "Light One Candle"

BOB 145

*(Please note this order for singing):*

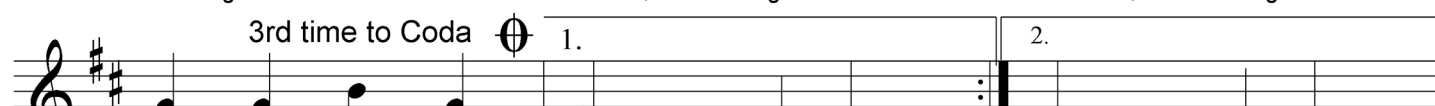
- Verse 1
- Verse 2
- CHORUS
- Verse 3
- CODA (Last Line)

**VERSE**



1. Light one can - dle for hope, one bright can - dle for hope, He brings hope to  
2. Light one can - dle for peace, one bright can - dle for peace, He brings peace to  
3. Light one can - dle for love, one bright can - dle for love, He brings love to


3rd time to Coda



1. ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!  
ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!  
ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!


2. comes! He comes!

**CHORUS**




Light one can - dle for joy, one bright can - dle for joy,

*D.C. al Coda*



Ev' - ry na - tion will find sal - va - tion in Beth - l'em's ba - by boy.

**Coda**



comes! He comes! He brings love to ev' - ry heart, He comes! He comes!

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**      *Psalm 72:2, 4, alt.; Philipians 1:6*

Pastor: May God judge His people with righteousness and justice.

**People:** **May He defend the poor, deliver the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

*Silence for self-examination.*

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

**People:** **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

Pastor: He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**People:** **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

**☩ WORD ☩**

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**

*("There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse.")*

**There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**

**And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

**And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.**

**He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness  
he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek**



of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth  
with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips  
he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be  
the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.  
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down  
with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play  
over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his  
hand on the adder's den.  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the  
knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.



In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Epistle: Romans 15:4-13**

*("May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.")*

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

**“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”**

**And again it says,**

**“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”**

**And again,**

**“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him.”**

**And again Isaiah says,**

**“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

**Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation, please rise.*

**Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.**

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

*(“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’”)*

**In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,**

**“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”**

**Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.**

**But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the**



axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Stephanie Roettjer



## Song of the Day

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344  
Verses 1-4

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow’rs that wither and decay.

Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.

## Sermon

“Time for a Change”

Pastor John Larson  
Text: Matthew 3:1-12

## Apostles’ Creed

*(found in the back of the hymnal)*

## Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: Hear our prayer.

## Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

*You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!*



Offering (collected in back)

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

*The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.*

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**Preface (Divine Service, Setting One - Spoken)**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

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

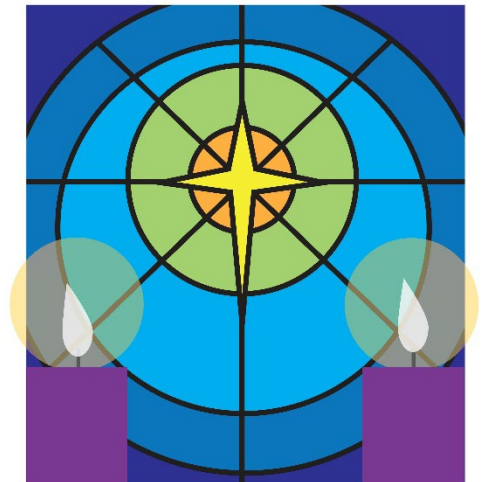
**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer** *Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.



SECOND SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

**Song** **O COME TO THE ALTAR** **Chris Brown**

Are you hurting and broken within Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin

Jesus is calling

Have you come to the end of yourself Do you thirst for a drink from the well

Jesus is calling



**CHORUS: O come to the altar The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with The precious blood of Jesus Christ**

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling **CHORUS X2**

Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen **CHORUS X2**

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

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**Song GREAT ARE YOU LORD Leonard | Ingram | Jordan**

You give life You are love  
You bring light to the darkness  
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken  
And great are You Lord  
  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only (Repeat from Beginning)  
  
And all the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing  
Great are You Lord (Repeat)  
  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only



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## **General Communion Blessing**

**CLOSING SENTENCES** *John 1:5, 9*

**Pastor:** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.  
**People:** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

## Benediction

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

## Closing Song            He Shall Reign Forevermore...

Tomlin

In the bleak mid-winter All creation groans  
For a world in darkness Frozen like a stone  
Light is breaking In a stable for a throne

### Chorus

(And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore  
Unto us a Child is born The King of kings and Lord of lords  
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

If I were a wise man I would travel far  
If I were a shepherd I would do my part  
But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart    **CHORUS**

Here within a manger lies the One Who made the starry skies  
This baby born for sacrifice Christ the Messiah  
Into our hopes into our fears The Savior of the world appears  
The promise of eternal years Christ the Messiah    **CHORUS**

## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



## ✕ SERVING IN WORSHIP ✕

**OFFICIANT / PREACHER**

Pastor John Larson

**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST**

Michael Zehnder

**PIANIST**

Diana Gaide

**PRAISE TEAM LEADER**

Stephanie Roettjer

**ELDERS**

4 p.m. Jeff Dunker; 8 a.m. Bob Olsen; 10:30 a.m. Michael Lawrenz

**ACOLYTES**

8:00 a.m. Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 a.m. Abby Williams

**LECTORS**

4 p.m. Dave Olsson; 8 a.m. Tom Munson; 10:30 a.m. Candace Uyeda

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

4:00 p.m. Dave Olsson; 10:30 a.m. Candace Uyeda

**ALTAR GUILD**

Tanya Schmitt, Charmaine Rohde, Gloria Mielke



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