

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

P: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be light shining in the darkness.
Enlighten us with your grace;
that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen

Light One candle to Watch for Messiah 240 (verse two)

*Light two candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.*

Litany for Advent:

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and bring your light to dwell among us.

P: For unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given.

C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and make us run to you with the eagerness of children.

P: A voice cries in the wilderness, prepare you the way of the Lord.

C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and grant us the courage to raise our voices for those who are voiceless.

P: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

C: Stir up your power, O Lord so that we may shine the light of your glory to all we encounter.

P: Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?

C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and open our ears to the cries of the poor and oppressed among us.

P: They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and grant us strength and endurance for the race we must run.

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the Earth.

C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and open our hearts to sing your praise in all that we say and do.

P: And He will come to Zion as redeemer, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression.

C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and turn us from transgression to redemption. Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, that we may live as light in the darkness.

C: The Spirit of the Lord, God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

P: Stir up your power, O Lord that we may feel your spirit resting upon us; and grant us a heart for the poor.

C: For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, that we may help bring about a new earth in your name.

C: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things
Amen

P. Let us confess our sins trusting in the tender mercy of our God
Silence is kept for reflection.

**God for whom we wait,
In the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P: God in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✠ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Prepare the Royal Highway 264*

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

KYRIE P. 139

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**
⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,
⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**
⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**
⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**
⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by “repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming 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.’ ”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry* 249

THE NICENE CREED

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all nations, we uplift the ministry of Global Health. May their work and mission for good health care to all nations be fruitful and bring blessings to all who are in need of quality health care. Hear us, O God

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

Responding in Love

Our Offerings *This is our response to God's grace.*

This ministry is funded by those who call St. John home and are excited about what God is doing through this ministry. If you are new to church, please don't feel any obligation to give. As much as we welcome your gifts for the Lord's work in this place, we care a whole lot more about you than money. We're just thrilled you're here. Offering plates are located in the front and back of the church.

Our Offering of Music

CHOIR ANTHEM *Hold on to Hope*

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *P.144 (in the beginning of the hymnal)*

Dialogue

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,

Our Salvation and our Hope,

We praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos cruelty and despair,

You sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages

Your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
And to heal the entire suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith, increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God You Take Away p.146*

HYMNS TO SING QUIETLY, HUM OR MEDITATE ON DURING COMMUNION

239 Hark, the Glad Sound!

244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Most High God,

you have come among us at this table.

By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,

sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,

through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing,

so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen

SENDING SONG: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 254*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice "open Communion" here at St. John

meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ”.

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Luke Antolick, Dave Barner, Darlene Bilby, Stan Breon, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, Joyce Hudson, Steve Keller and sister Janet Grazier, Bud Long, Mary Miller, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Ruth Nice, Penny Parks-Dean, Jean Ann Snyder, Shane Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Loudon Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector – Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers – Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher – Lon Myers; Teller – Dawn McCloskey; Bulletin Sponsor – Cozette Stoltzfus ; Children’s Church—Pam Wehler.

Next week’s helpers: Lector – Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers –Bill Ely, Jr., Ken Dougherty; Head Usher – Lon Myers; Teller – Dawn McCloskey; Bulletin Sponsor – Cozette Stoltzfus; Flowers – Carsons; Children’s Church – Cathy Eisner

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored in memory of Rick and loved ones by Bob, Jean Ann, and Shane Snyder

The altar flowers are given in memory of loved ones by Will and Nancy Wolfe.

The Sanctuary will be **decorated for Christmas** on Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Our Moravian Star

Originating in the Moravian boarding schools in Herrnhut, Saxony, Germany in the 1830’s as an exercise in geometry, the stars were carried throughout the world by missionaries and other church workers. Now, from the Himalayas to the Caribbean, the star proclaims the hope of Advent.

Whatever its form, the star reminds us of God, who caused the light to shine out of darkness and of the light which is the life of humanity. It reminds us of the promise of Abraham that his descendants would be more numerous than the stars; we are reminded of the star that pointed to the "great and heavenly light from Bethlehem's manger shining bright." The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. This is the message of the Advent star, which also points to Jesus, who said, "I am the bright and Morning Star." It is the star of promise, the star of fulfillment, and the star of hope.

At. St. John, our star, which is a 35 inch, 62 point star, was manufactured by the Brubaker family in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

The 2022 Flower calendar has been posted on the upstairs bulletin board. The Sanctuary Candle sign-up sheet and the Bulletin Sponsors sheets are in the downstairs hallway.

The Lutheran Church Women's Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran.

Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

In November, Mr. Mark Cooley from Cooley **Organ** Company came to replace leather and do other work on the **pipe organ**. That cost us \$1,199. Mr. Cooley has worked on our organ for many years. Originally, he worked for the Moller Company that built our **pipe organ**. Mr. Colley believes the last time he came to do any major cleaning of the organ was in 2015. Imagine what your attic or cellar would look like after six years of dust and cobwebs. That's our **organ**. He did what he could, but we need an extreme cleaning where some ranks (pipes) would be removed so there is access to other ranks for cleaning and repairs. To do a complete cleaning and repairs which may take 5-6 days with his two helpers would cost \$4400-\$5000. We were really blessed as we have received \$2900 in Fall Cash Sunday offerings. If anyone would like to make an end-of-the-year donation to completely clean and repair the **Moller pipe organ**, your gifts would be appreciated. Note on your check "**organ repairs.**"

"DAVID" playing at Sight and Sound !! August 6, 2022 -- Children 10 and under \$125.00; Adults \$190.00. Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. Payments may be made during the course of the year! Thank You! Joyce Braucht.

The **angels** are on the tree in the Tower for the **Toys-For-Tots program**.

We invite you to pick an angel and donate the gift to community children in need.

The gifts need to be back at the church office **TODAY!** All unwrapped. Please attach the angel to the gift so we know which child the gift is for. Any questions please contact Lynette Yost 570-419-5620 or Carol Yost 570-295-6335.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, December 5 , 2021

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service *2nd Sunday of Advent*

2:00 p.m. Catechism

Monday, December 6, 2021

Festival of St. Nicholas

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

5:30 p.m. JOY Christmas party

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship at Trinity Episcopal Church

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 9, 2021

4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Christkindlemarket at Mifflinburg

Friday, December 10, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Christkindlemarket at Mifflinburg

Saturday, December 11, 2021

9:00 a.m. – decorate the Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Christkindlemarket at Mifflinburg

Sunday, December 12, 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

Poinsettia Orders and Money DUE

2:00 p.m. Catechism

10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Christkindlemarket at Mifflinburg

Upcoming!

Friday, December 17 – Food Distribution 9-1

Sunday, December 19 –Christmas Play

Christmas Dinner - bring a covered dish to share. Meat provided.

Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. – Holly Dittmer recruiting for a children’s Christmas presentation

Christmas Eve Worship – December 24

4:00 p.m. – Worship at St. John Lutheran

7:00 p.m. – Worship at St. James Lutheran

10:00 p.m. – Special Music at St. John Lutheran

10:30 p.m. – Worship at St. John Lutheran

