

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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ADVENT II

December 5, 2021

Preparation

Pre-service Music

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

See back page

Prayer of the Day

Hearing the Word

The Lessons

Insert

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

Silence for Meditation

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79 (*Read responsively by whole verse*)

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

Silence for Meditation

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand and speak together:

Hallelujah! Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near. Hallelujah!

The Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Sermon

Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy

Response to the Word

Hymn of the Day: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

LBW #26

The Nicene Creed

Insert

Prayers of the People

*The congregation is seated for the prayers
which begin with an extended period of silence*

Peace and Offertory

The Peace of the Lord

Offertory

Offertory Hymn: "Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior" WOV#614
(*Verses 1 & 2 - Refrain / Stanza / Refrain*)

Offertory Prayer:

L: 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.**

The Penitential Rite

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

L: God of all time,

we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Absolution

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

p. 68

Our Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

p. 72

Following, please be seated for a period of prayer and meditation while the pastor and assistants commune.

Communion

The Dismissal

Blessing

L: 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.**

Closing Hymn: "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" LBW #30

Benediction

L: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God

Lighting of the Advent Candle
The Wonder of the Promise

Reader: During Advent we recall God's promises spoken through the prophets.

C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

Reader: To the hurting, God promises unshakable hope.

C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

Reader: To the forsaken, God promises unconditional love.

C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

Reader: To the broken, God promises unmerited grace.

C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

Reader: To the heavy hearted, God promises unbridled joy.

C: The Word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

Candle Lighting:

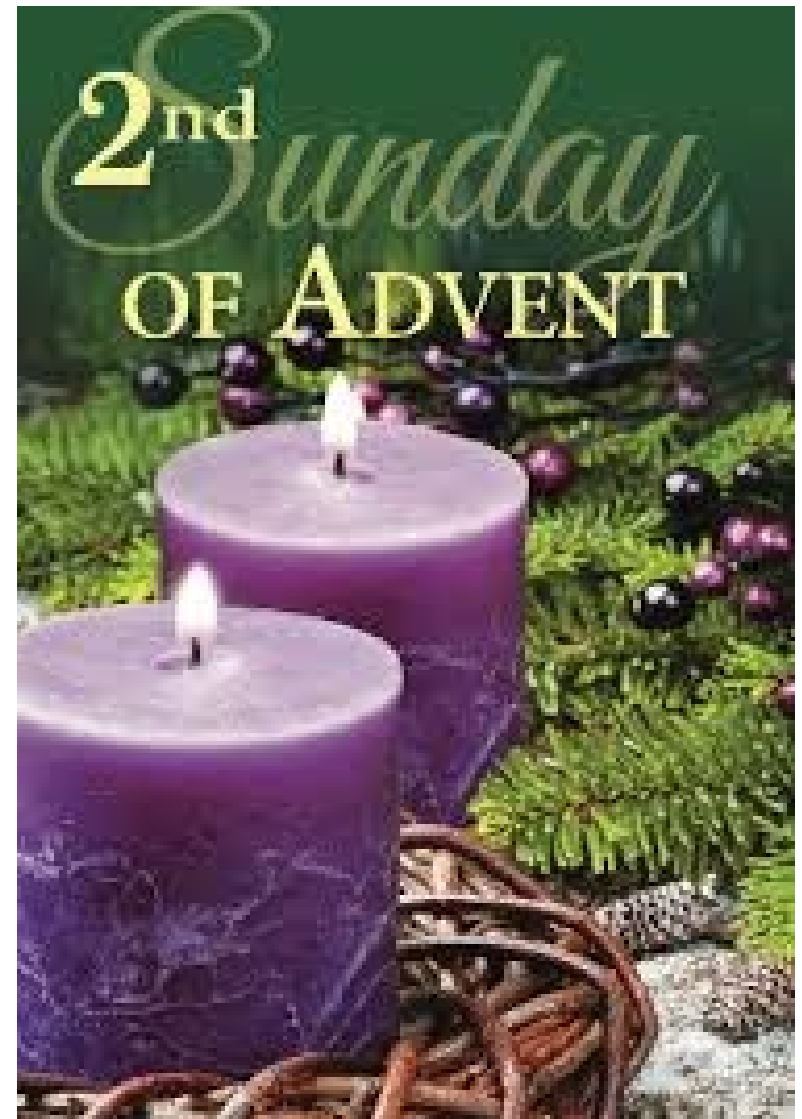
Today we light the two candles. The **first candle** reminds us to recapture the wonder of the season. In a world that seldom slows, Advent is an opportunity to still our hearts and open our eyes to the wonder and majesty of our Savior. As we light the **second candle**, we call to mind God's promise to restore, redeem and reconcile a broken world, spoken through the prophets and fulfilled through Christ.

Advent and Christmas at Shepherd of the Hills:

December 12 (Advent III) – This morning's worship will be led by Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy.

December 19 (Advent IV) – This morning's worship with Rev. Rick Neu will be our traditional service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and will include the blessing of our Christmas tree. After the service, we will decorate the Church and tree for Christmas.

December 24 (Christmas Eve) 5:30pm. Led by Rev. Rick Neu, we join in singing our favorite carols, celebrating the birth of our Savior, as recorded in Luke 2, and rejoicing with Holy Communion.



Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

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.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-70

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

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.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

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.'"

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;
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 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

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

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

LITURGY PIECES

614 *Refrain* Praise to You, O Christ, Our Savior

Em Bm Em Am D Em C G Am D Em C Bm

Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav-ior, Word of the Fa-ther, call-ing us to life:

Em Am Em Bm Am D G Em C Em7 Am Bm Em

Son of God who leads us to free-dom; glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

1 You are the Word who calls us out of dark-ness;
 2 You are the one whom proph-ets hoped and longed for;
 3 You are the Word who calls us to be ser-vants;
 4 You are the Word who binds us and u-nites us;

C G Am Bm C D

you are the Word who leads us in-to light; you are the Word who
 you are the one who speaks to us to-day; you are the one who
 you are the Word whose on-ly law is love; you are the Word made
 you are the Word who calls us to be one; you are the Word who

Em Em7 C Am Dsus4 D G Em

Refrain

brings us through the des-ert: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!
 leads us to our fu-ture: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!
 flesh who lives a-mong us: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!
 teach-es us for-give-ness: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

C Am Dsus4 D C Am D Bm *Refrain*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na.

Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835