

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

PRELUDE

Becky Retherford

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.  
† You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN      ELW #249

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

- 1      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!
- 2      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.

- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

#### ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING - The Candle Of Peace

Let us pray. O God, **it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

READING                      Isaiah 11:1-10

DIALOG

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE:                      "Peace"

ADVENT HYMN      ACS #901- vs 1, 3      "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

- 1 Now the heavens start to whisper,  
as the veil is growing thin.  
Earth from slumber wakes to listen  
to the stirring, faint within:  
seed of promise, deeply planted,  
child to spring from Jesse's stem!  
Like the soil beneath the frostline,  
hearts grow soft to welcome him.
- 3 Christ, eternal Sun of justice,  
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,  
come to bless with fire and fragrance  
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.  
In the lonely, in the stranger,  
in the outcast, hid from view;  
Child who comes to grace the manger,  
teach our hearts to welcome you.

## GREETING

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Word

## BIBLE READING

Romans 15:4-13

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #267 - vs. 1, 4 "Joy to the World"

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

## SERMON

Pastor Julie Brenden

## HYMN OF DAY

ELW #256

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

- 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.
- 2 For the herald's voice is crying

in the desert far and near,  
 calling us to true repentance,  
 since the reign of God is here.  
 Oh, that warning cry obey!  
 Now prepare for God a way.  
 Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
 hills, bow down in humble favor.

- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
 and the rougher places plain.  
 Let your hearts be true and humble,  
 as befits God's holy reign.  
 For the glory of the Lord  
 now on earth is shed abroad,  
 and all flesh shall see the token  
 that God's word is never broken.

#### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our**

**Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Responses: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

#### Meal

OFFERING & HYMN

ELW #244 - vs 1, 4

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,

and let your lights appear;  
 the evening is advancing,  
 and darker night is near.  
 The bridegroom is arising  
 and soon is drawing nigh.  
 Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
 at midnight comes the cry.

- 4 Our hope and expectation,  
 O Jesus, now appear;  
 arise, O Sun so longed for,  
 o'er this benighted sphere.  
 With hearts and hands uplifted,  
 we plead, O Lord, to see  
 the day of earth's redemption  
 that sets your people free!

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, **you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

#### COMMUNION & HYMN

ELW #279, vs. 1-3

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
 how still we see thee lie!  
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
 the silent stars go by;  
 yet in thy dark streets shineth  
 the everlasting light.  
 The hopes and fears of all the years  
 are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,

and, gathered all above  
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
 their watch of wond'ring love.  
 O morning stars, together  
 proclaim the holy birth,  
 and praises sing to God the king,  
 and peace to all the earth!

- 3 How silently, how silently  
 the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
 So God imparts to human hearts  
 the blessings of his heav'n.  
 No ear may hear his coming;  
 but, in this world of sin,  
 where meek souls will receive him, still  
 the dear Christ enters in.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God our host, **at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.**  
**Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,**  
**and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### Sending

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
 and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN      ELW #254      “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”  
*(Sing to tune of ELW #836- “Hymn to Joy”)*

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
 born to set thy people free;  
 from our fears and sins release us;  
 let us find our rest in thee.  
 Israel's strength and consolation,  
 hope of all the earth thou art,  
 dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
 joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born thy people to deliver,

born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**