



Worship Guide for Sunday, December 5, 2021

2nd Sunday of Advent
First Lutheran Church - Sandpoint

Welcome!

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."

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP -

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Litany

L1: At every beginning there is a yearning
for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

Prepare us for your coming.

L2: We gather together to get ready for what?
Only heaven knows.

O Emmanuel,

Prepare us for your coming.

L1: We wait for the day
when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth,
and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends.

O Emmanuel,

Prepare us for your coming.

L2: We get ready for God to come close
by laying our lives open to Jesus,
asking him to sort through all our mixed motives.

O Emmanuel,

Prepare us for your coming.

L1: Jesus, we welcome your presence now
with the lighting of these candles,
whose flames bring warmth to winter
and fill this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

Light two candles.

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257 (v 1 & 6)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain

Refrain

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

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.

:

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (*Lk. 1:78*)

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. R**

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,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. R**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare 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 shad- | ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

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.

The word of the Lord.:
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION -**

(ELW 270, v 3)

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*
Refrain
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - *On Jordan's Banks* odd verses (ELW 249)

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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 (*especially*). 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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, (like waving from your location) and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

You may share your offering as you return to your seat at Communion or give online through our

<https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.

The offering plates are in the front corners and near the exit doors.

Also, for those worshiping with us from home, please prepare a form of bread and wine/grape juice as we turn to gather now, around God's table of grace.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

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

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***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 all the 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**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Communion will be served at one station. The lectern side will start by coming forward by the center aisle. The wine and grape juice (white) will be served in pre-poured glasses. A bowl is near the outside aisle to collect empty glasses.

*Please give the next family unit **six feet** as you make your way forward.*

COMMUNION - REFLECTIVE ADVENT MUSIC, NO SINGING

The gifts are given as the following promise is spoken,

“The body of Christ given for you.”

“The blood of Christ shed for you.”

*You may respond. **Amen.***

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from before your path.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

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:



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

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

This is the ministry we share in Christ's name:
To Praise God, Nurture Faith, and Serve All!
Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES:

Cover Image from sundaysandseasons.com

Liturgy Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Scripture text from the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version, sundaysandseasons.com)

Songs reprinted and streamed by permission. onelicense.net #A-705894.

Worship Team:

Organ - Corina Hughes

Pastors – Phil Misner and Steve Neuder

AV/Tech - Scott Youngren and Don Farnham

Office Contact Information: T & Th 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

208-263-2048

office@firstlutheransandpoint.org

Prayers - Erin Tyrrell, Milt Jacobs, Tammie and Scott Rusho, Katheryn Braatz and her family, Jack and Darlene Dickman, Kathy Bradetich, Don Harms, Steve Harms, Debbie Haberlock, Mary Laker, David Hollyer, Frances Cavagnaro, Dar Cogswell, Carrie Cummings, Alyssa Grant, Betty Mitchell, George Marker, Chris Ingham; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Kara Schripsema; Trey Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier;; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

Luther Park residents, their families, and staff.

All healthcare workers and facilities trying to offer care during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Save the Date: December 12th Special Congregational Meeting after worship. More information will be sent out this week. The Council, at their last meeting, approved the calling of a special congregational meeting to vote on purchasing a used organ console as described in the November newsletter.

Giving Tree: As we did last year, please call Hali Jacobs at 1 208 290 6558 to find out which people are still available to purchase gifts. All gifts need to be wrapped and returned to Hali by Dec. 19th.