



Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018 | 11 am

St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, North Carolina

Welcome to St. John's!

For more information about today's worship, please refer to the pew card found in the hymnal.



The Advent Wreath. One of the most recognizable customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life. Its circular shape, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's unending love for us. The wreath itself is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life, even during the dormant time of winter. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light, despite the wintry darkness that surrounds us.



Gathering

Welcome Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.

Prelude Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Advent season begins in darkness as we await the coming of Christ. In the midst of darkness we are reminded of a single light that provides peace and hope. Through the four weeks of Advent, the light marks our time and becomes a growing reminder that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light no darkness can overcome (John 1:5).

Please remain seated.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

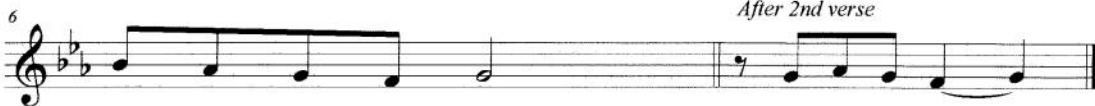
Isaiah 9:2



Solo 1. O Splen - dor of the Fa - ther's light that makes our
Congregation 2. The Fa - ther sends his Son, our Lord, too be his



day - light lu - cid, bright; O Light of light and sun of day, now shine on
bright and shin - ing Word; Come, Lord, ride out your gleam - ing course and be our



us your bright - est ray. A - men.
dawn, our light's true source.

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright is one of the Christian church's earliest hymns, written in the 4th century by Ambrose of Milan. © 2000 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI License #942521

Prayer for the Season of Advent

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, king of the universe. You call all people to walk in your light and to seek your way of justice and peace; for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Rouse us from sleep, bless us with light, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes.

Amen.

Please stand

**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.**

**Lord, thy people long to greet thee, thou our Prince of Light and Peace.
Come, and kindle, Lord most holy, lamps that burn and never cease.
To a hurting world of darkness, light the fire of hope today,
Guide our paths along life's journey in thy loving, perfect way.**

**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.**

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.**

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.**

Please be seated



Word

First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16

God, the True Shepherd

¹¹For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the

mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

The Word of the Lord. The Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

Speak, O Lord Stuart Townsend and Keith Getty
St. John's Women's Ensemble

Speak, O Lord as we come to you to receive the food of your holy word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us for your glory.
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority,
Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises. And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built and the earth is filled with your glory. Amen.

Please stand

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:8-15

The shepherds and the angels

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Worship. *Children will leave to attend Children's Worship, returning after the sermon.*

Please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Laura Henrik

Please stand

Hymn 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Please be seated

Welcome New Members

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

The Yearning

by Craig Courtney

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide,
a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.
There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own,
And by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.
There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed
within our hearts the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

Offertory Hymn *As the gifts are presented, the congregation stands and sings the Doxology.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayers of Intercession. *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

The 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.**



Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Please stand

Benediction

Hymn 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

BERDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America