



Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018 | 8:30 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.



Gathering

Prelude

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
STUTT GART

arr. Craig A. Penfield

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

Confession and Forgiveness

We gather in the name of the Father+, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and one another.

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.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!
Amen.

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LOVE DIVINE

**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.**

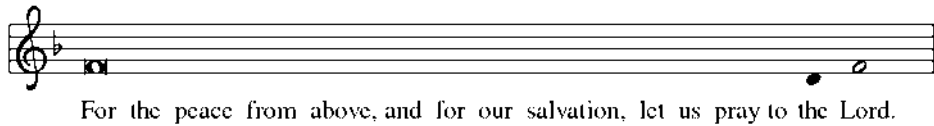
**Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

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.**

Kyrie. A centering prayer asking for God's mercy and peace.



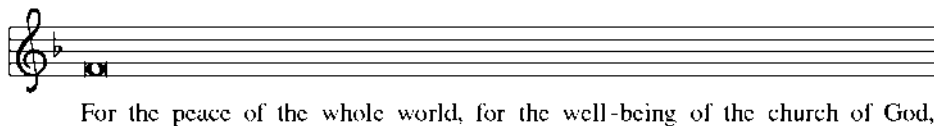
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



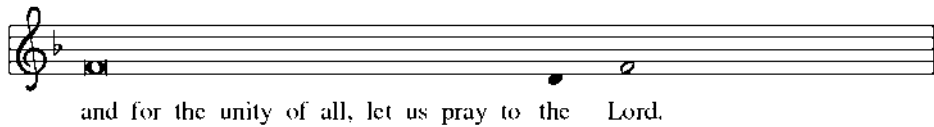
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



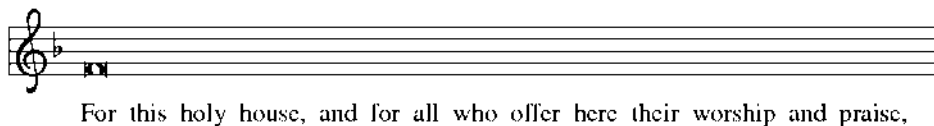
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



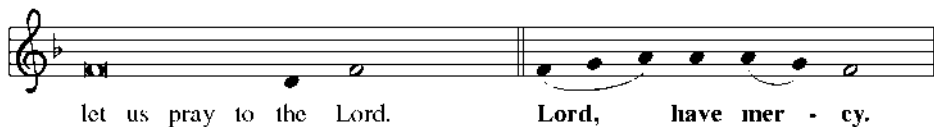
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



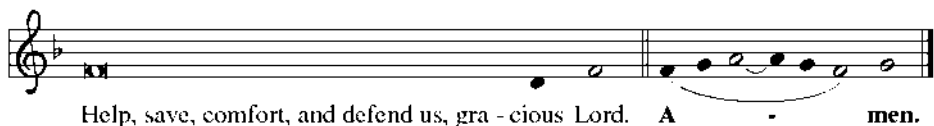
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

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!**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel. "Alleluia" is an ancient Jewish acclamation that means "God be praised." In the Christian tradition, Alleluia means "He is risen!"



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!**

Please be seated

Sermon

Pastor Laura Henrik

Please stand

Hymn 275

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Apostles' Creed

Gathered as the people of God across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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. *Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*
The congregation is invited to offer up the names of those they want added to the prayers.

Sharing the Peace of Christ The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated



Meal

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings, and Preparation of the Lord's Table

Offering Voluntary

Meditation for Advent II

Paul Hamill

As the gifts are presented the congregation stands and sings the Doxology, ELW 884

Let us pray. Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic 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.**

Please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion, see pew card for instructions.

Hymn *Lamb of God, p. 154, front of red ELW*

Prayer and Blessing



Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

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

Prepare the Royal Highway

Robert A. Hobby



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.*

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North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America