SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Order of Worship – 9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER – When things are going wrong, we encourage our friends, saying, “Look up. Things will get better.” But that takes hope based on some report or promise. Our Advent hope is based on promises God has made throughout history, some of which we still await. Isaiah sees lions and lambs living together one day. Paul hopes that Jews and Gentiles will learn to live in harmony together now. But John the Baptist warns that only repentance will enable us to move forward. Advent is a time to recognize God’s grace in forgiving our sins and to look forward and up in hope!

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

[Means please stand; ? Means please be seated]

OPENING HYMN

Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
   Of Jesse’s lineage coming As prophets long have sung.

2 Isaiah ’twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;
   With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.

3 This flow’r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
   Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev’ry woe;

4 O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human kind.
   To show God’s love a-right, She bore to where.

[Please fill out prayer request cards.]

LSB 359
INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES Matthew 3:11; Romans 15:13; Isaiah 11:4, 6; Psalm 72:19

P In the name of the Father and of the -f- Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming
C will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
C so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
P With the breath of His lips He shall kill the wicked.
C The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and a little child shall lead them.
P Blessed be His glorious name forever;
C may the whole earth be filled with His glory!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS Matthew 3:2, 11; Romans 15:13

P When John the Baptist was preparing people to meet the Messiah, he preached, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
C We all should repent, for we have thought, spoken, and acted in divisive, sinful ways.
P John promised that the Messiah would “baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” It was the Spirit who worked faith in your hearts in Holy Baptism. Through the Word and Sacraments, our sins are forgiven, and we are given hope to amend our sinful lives and to look to our Lord’s return at the end of all things. As a called and ordained servant of Christ I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the -f- Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
P Paul writes, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
C O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.
P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
C O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.
P 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.
C O Lord, Branch of Jesse’s tree, have mercy.
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C Amen.
HYMN OF PRAISE

Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
2 God's people, see Him coming; Your own eternal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.

Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abound-ing:

Refrain

Ho-san-na to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray.

All: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.
P Let us share this peace with one another.
(People greet one another saying: "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.
EPISTLE LESSON
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE
All Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE
[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

HYMN OF THE DAY
On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry
LSB 344

1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces
2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within, And let us all our
3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward; Without Thy grace we
4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fall en strong to stand; Show us the glory sets Thy people free, Whom with the Father
5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent that the Lord is nigh; Awake and hear ken,

for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!
hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.
waste a way Like flow’rs that with er and decay.
of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.
we a dore And Holy Spirit it ev er more.

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SERMON

“ABOUND IN HOPE” Romans 15:4-13

I. Even in this festive time of year (and maybe because of this festive time of year), life can be full of hopelessness and despair.

II. Paul reminds us today that because of Christ’s coming we can “abound in hope.”

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” by Ludwig Lenel

OFFERTORY

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” LSB 350

Lord most holy, Dwell in me and ne’er depart, receive, I pray Thee; Ever more, as best I can,

Though I am but poor and lowly, Ah, what riches Savior, I will homage pay Thee, And in faith I will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!

will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH [responses sung to: “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”]

As we live in hope until our Lord’s return, we pray for all people in their various needs and for the Church, here and around the world. For any among us and all others who hope for freedom from the consequences of their past mistakes, from the injustices of their societies, and from their own worldly passions, that God would surround them with people of faith “that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures” they might place their hope in Him alone, let us pray to the Lord.

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!

5
For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, wherever people live in hope for an end to discord with their neighbors and calm across their borders, that God would use people of faith to order society at home and work for harmony among the nations, so that peoples and nations might welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us, let us pray to the Lord.

**Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.**

For all people in need of the Gospel, that God would inspire artists and craftspeople, musicians and poets to creatively praise Him among the Gentiles and sing to His name, carrying the news of Christ's advent in history, His presence with us now, and His promised return, let us pray to the Lord.

**Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.**

For people who hope for relief from long-term ills or sudden crises of health, looking for an end to unemployment and financial woes, [including . . .], that God would provide comfort, relief, and health so that they "might glorify God for His mercy," let us pray to the Lord.

**Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!**

For the Church here and around the world, led by clergy and lay members, "that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" and together we may with one voice glorify God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation.**

For ourselves and everyone who eagerly hopes for the return of our Savior, that the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope, let us pray to the Lord.

**That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.**

Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

O Lord Jesus Christ, 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.

**Benediction**

Paul prayed, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.

Amen.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
CLOSING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354

1 Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves to-day;
   Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
   To us by grace alone The heav’n-ly guest.
   Make straight, make plain the way:
   Make straight, make plain the way:
   Legs, The heart sincere and right,
   The heart sincere and right,
   From stall and manger low Come truth and light were given;
   The promised Lord from heav’n.
   To all the world is shown.

2 Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.
   Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this high.
   Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this high.
   The heart sincere and right,
   The heart sincere and right,
   That Advent-tide. From stall and manger low Come leg.

3 The humble heart and lowly God raises up on side,
   Beneath His feet in terror The haughty side,
   Beneath His feet in terror The haughty side,
   The heart sincere and right,
   The heart sincere and right,
   That Advent-tide. From stall and manger low Come leg.

4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me a-day;
   And help me to receive You This blessed day;
   The heavens are open;
   And help me to receive You This blessed day;
   The heavens are open;
   That Advent-tide. From stall and manger low Come leg.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE “Arise, O Christian People” by Johann Christoph Bach

From Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:

Total General Offering Blessings – (Nov. 1, 2019 - Nov. 30, 2019) .................. $ 38,308.52
General Fund ............................................. 16,918.00
E.C.C. Tuition ............................................. 19,732.05
Loose Plate, Sunday School & Other Gifts ..................................................... 1,658.47
Total Expenditures ........................................ 32,583.52
Surplus / (Deficit) ............................................ 5,725.00
Fiscal Year Cumulative Surplus / (Deficit) ................................................. 8,130.74