

Dec. 4th 2022

Second Day in Advent



CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is coming to his temple.

We watch and wait for his coming.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Reader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of the purity of heart only God can bring.

Reader 2: For he shall purify his people like gold and silver, until they shine forth his righteousness.

Congregation: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

GATHERING SONG *Morning Has Broken (ELW #556)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Saints, Let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant with us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Grateful for the promise of joy and of peace, let us share that peace with one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY (ACS #908)

In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes



1 In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.
2 For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.
3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the
Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each
ra - dian't star to light our way. Sum-mer's



an - gel songs be - gin, like the whis - per of the wind,
home-less in - fant born, for the meek and those who mourn,
heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,



na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.
for the wear - y and the worn, Je - sus comes.
to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy one, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illuminate our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (*Ps. 72:7*)

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall

come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sister and brothers in Christ, for the sake of the world that God so loves, let us pray.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

We pray for peace in every nation- that hatred and ill will in the hearts of all people, will be burned away in your refining fire, leaving only love.

Pray for the peace of the church.

We pray for peace in Chris's body- put an end to fear and fighting, that we may proclaim your good news and be awake to your presence.

Pray for the peace of this community.

We pray for peace in this place- for safety in our homes and streets, for the prosperity of our neighbors, and for the health of family and friends.

God of the future, make us ready for the coming of your reign, when you will bring everlasting peace and renew the face of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Give with pure hearts

OFFERING SONG *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful (ELW #184)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude, the offerings of our lives. Purify them with your refining fire so that they may serve your purposes and shine with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

SENDING HYMN *Prepare a Royal Highway (ELW #264)*

CHARGE

About that day and hour no one knows. Therefore keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Be ready, for the Lord will come at an unexpected hour.

BLESSING

May the Spirit of the Lord surround you as you walk and wait for his coming.

Let it be so! Amen.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 11:30-1:30 PM Bygland Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner Bazaar & Bake Sale.
- Dec. 5th & 6th 9:00 AM Quilting at FLC
- Dec. 6th 8:00 AM Stretch and Pray Cancelled
- Dec. 7th 6:15 PM Confirmation at FLC (Grade 8)
- Dec. 8th 6:30 PM BLC/FLC Music and Worship Committee at FLC
- Dec. 11th 9:00 AM Worship/Christmas Program at Fisher
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship at Bygland
6:00 PM BLC Christmas Program with Cookie Reception following.
- Dec. 11th Fisher Lutheran Gift Exchange: Bring a \$2.00 gift for the exchange. Children bring a child's gift and adults bring an adult gift.
- Dec. 11th 80th Birthday Celebration for Roger Krostue.
- 4-6:30 PM American Legion EGF. Not gifts Please.
- Dec. 14th 9:00 AM Pastor Gretchen will be leading a Bible Study at Fisher for All Women. Both Congregations are invited to attend. Topic: Good things come in small packages