

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7, 2025

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table, we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ, the kingdom of God has come near.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 726

Light Dawns on a Weary World

LITANY FOR LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Written by Rev. Julia Seymour, ELCA

Response (x5):

Blessed be God's glorious name forever.

Let the earth be filled with God's glory.

God of all hopefulness, thank you for your faithfulness to your covenants and to your creation. As you have kept your word... Strengthen us in Christian hope that we may bravely go into the world, meeting Christ in others and serving him in word and deed. **Amen.**

ADVENT HYMN

ELW 262 – 3x

Wait for the Lord

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The 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.

³ His 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,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor

and decide with equity for the oppressed 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.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They 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.

¹⁰ On 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

Please read the psalm responsively.

¹ Give 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;**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever 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. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For 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 ancestors ⁹ and 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”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Response:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

**you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths.**

**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises.**

We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth.

**We reject your abundance,
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.**

**Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

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

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

ELW 253

He Came Down

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts...

Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. 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.

PREFACE

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 260 & 239

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

ELW 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is coming.

Thanks be to God.

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Thank you, worship leaders!

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<https://www.livingfaithlemars.com/post/living-faith-weekly-news-week-of-november-30-2025>

