



**Sunday**  
**December 5, 2021**

## Second Sunday of Advent

**Prelude**                    “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People”    Richard Lind

**Introduction** - *Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”*

### Lighting of the Advent Candle - Peace

L: Savior, come, make this world right.  
Break the dark with your light.

**C: Bring justice and peace to earth.  
Fill our hearts with holy mirth.**

L: Your king is coming! Hear the Good News from Matthew.  
They brought a donkey and her colt, and put their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from palm trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

(Matthew 11: 7-10)

Prepare the Royal Highway (vs. 2)                    ELW# 264  
*(Lighting of the Advent wreath)*

God’s people, see him coming” your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing! God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word!

P: The promised grace of our Lord,  
the blessed love of our Creator,  
the eternal presence of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*.....Silence is kept for reflection.....*

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children**

**and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving Grace. Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**C: Amen.**

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also, with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray

C: **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.**

## Readings Malachi 3:1-4

## Assisting Minister

*God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.*

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

## Psalm: Luke 1:68-79

*In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)*

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from  
our enemies,<sup>71</sup>from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,**

<sup>75</sup>**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup>**to give God's people knowledge of salvation**

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow  
of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## **Philippians 1:3-11**

*The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** (*please stand as you are able*)

**Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth ;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.** (*Please be seated*)

**Sermon**

“People Get Ready”

**Pastor Mitch**

## **Apostles Creed**

**All: 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**

**Assisting Minister**

**P: Hear us O God,**

**C: have mercy on us.**

## **Offering**

**Offering Anthem**

**“Soon and Very Soon”  
“Pickup Choir”**

**arr. Jack Schrader**

## **Offering Prayer**

**P: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.**

**Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.**

**C: Amen.**



## **Holy Communion**

### **Words of Institution**

**P:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**C:** **Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**All:** **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.**

### **Distribution**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**P:** Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Sending of Communion** (*Lay Ministers come forward*)

**P:** Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**



## **Blessing**

**P:** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy  
Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**C: Amen.**

## **Postlude**

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

arr. David Cherwien

*We invite the congregation to remain seated and enjoy the postlude.*

## **Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\* \* \* \*

## **Leading Worship Today**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Mitch Kinsinger

**Organist:** Barbara Rossow

**Assisting Ministers:** Dennis Rasmusson, Mary Kowitz,  
Per Halaas, Intern

**Video Master:** Silvester Vicic

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*Our service today will be live streamed if anyone would like to view our new website or be connected to Facebook. From  
sundaysandseasons.com.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please pray this week for AHLC Members and friends: Clair and Don Haberman, Jackie Staples, Dean Anderson, Richard Johnson, Priscilla Reeve, Gloria Doyon, Jerry Ekblad, Gary Winter, Betty Richter, Ron Hanson, Velta Krauze, Joanne Policone, Shirley Johnson, Margaret Cleary, MaryAnn Wistrom, Mary Kowitz, John Lind, Tom and Deb Perry, Esther Hallgren, Jan Kowitz, and Richard Edge.

### **Advent with the East Side Collaboration**

Advent Series on Zoom

Wednesdays 7:00 pm

December 8, 15, 22

On Wednesdays during Advent, the East Side Collaboration will be hosting an evening “Cozy Vespers” service centered on the theme of “Light AND Darkness” on Zoom. Holden Evening Prayer will guide our time with Pastoral Intern Per Halaas providing a short meditation for each service. So tune in as you are able for a special time together, as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Messiah.

**Pick up Choir –1st and 3rd Sundays.** Everyone is invited to join the pick-up Choir. Practice will start promptly at 8:45 a.m. No Wednesday night practices or robes. Anthem will be sung during Offertory. Thank you for your participation.

**December Newsletters** are available at the back table and at our website [www.ahlc-stp.org](http://www.ahlc-stp.org).

*Arlington Hills Lutheran Church (AHLIC) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to spread of the Word of Jesus Christ through word and deed and to promote the improvement of body, mind and spirit on the East Side of St. Paul and the greater St. Paul and Minneapolis metropolitan area. All tithes, offerings, or donations of any kind are tax-deductible under section 170(c)(2) and other relevant laws. The church will make every reasonable effort to honor designated gifts. In the event that a program, project, or giving purpose is overfunded or has concluded or is a program, project, or giving purpose not currently active in the church, your gift will be applied where it is needed most.*

*We acknowledge that the land on which we reside, worship and gather was first the home of the Dakota and Ojibwe (Chippewa) people. Minnesota means "sky-tinted water" in the Dakota language. We honor the First Nation people who continue to live and work here as part of this community.*