

# Second Sunday of Advent

## December 4, 2022



PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (Gilbert Martin, arr.)

### WORDS OF WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN *Prepare the way, O Zion* (Bereden väg för Herran)



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



*Refrain*  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Loving God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. Kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. May the wreath and its light be to us a sign of hope that is Christ's promise, and may we be alert to see him when he comes. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

### CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,**

and by what we have left undone.  
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
 have mercy on us and forgive us;  
 that we may delight in your will,  
 and walk in your ways,  
 to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

**OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE S 102 Holy God (Archangelsky)**

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
 Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

**THE LESSONS**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup>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.  
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;  
but 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.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

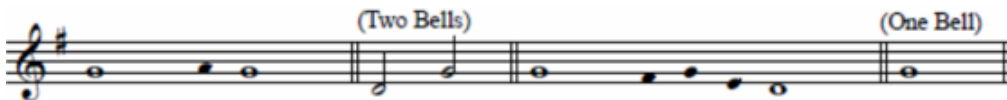
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
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.

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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

### PSALM RESPONSE



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

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 little hills bring righteousness.  
4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.  
5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field. \*  
like showers that water the earth.  
7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
18 Blest are you, O God of Israel; \*  
you alone do wondrous deeds!  
19 And blest is your glorious Name for ever! \*  
May all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

## SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

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

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>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 patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and 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”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

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

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

*All stand.*



## GOSPEL:

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This 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.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But 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? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do 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. <sup>10</sup>Even 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.

<sup>11</sup>“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. <sup>12</sup>His 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.”

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## THE SERMON

### THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK)

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.  
You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.  
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you.**

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*All remain standing or kneel, as able.*

### THE PEACE

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*                And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with glad hearts offer the fruits of our life and labor to the Lord.

## ANTHEM *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* by Heinrich von Herzogenberg

A rod shall come forth from the stem of Jesse A branch shall come from out its roots; The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and truth.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
to show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.

## OFFERTORY HYMN *O heavenly Word, eternal Light* (*O Heiland, reiss*)



1 O heaven - ly Word, e - ter - nal Light, be - got - ten  
2 pour light up - on us from a - bove, and fire our  
3 and when, as judge, thou draw - est nigh the se - crets  
4 O let us not, for e - vil past, be driv - en  
\* 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the



1 of the Fa - ther's might, who in these lat - ter days wast  
2 hearts with ar - dent love, that, as we hear thy truth to -  
3 of our hearts to try, to rec - om - pense each hid - den  
4 from thy face at last, but with thy saints for ev - er -  
5 Spi - rit, ev - er One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry



1 born for bless - ing to a world for - lorn;  
2 day, all wrong de - sires may burn a - way;  
3 sin and bid the saints their reign be - gin;  
4 more be - hold thee, love thee, and a - dore.  
5 be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

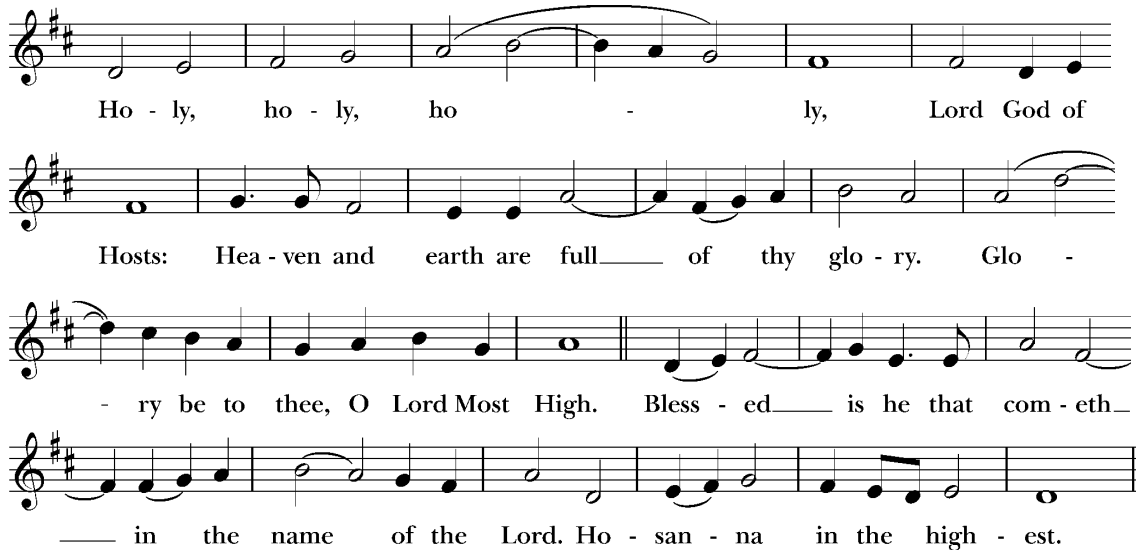
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.  
From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep  
and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far  
away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live  
in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our  
voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY S 114 *Holy, holy, holy (Willan) (S 114)***



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -  
ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace,  
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,  
that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself  
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross  
the sacrifice of his life,  
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.

Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,

and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,  
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.  
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation,  
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.  
In the fullness of time bring us,  
with all your saints,  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
to feast at the banquet prepared  
from the foundation of the world.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. *Amen.*

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### FRACTION ANTHEM S 158 O Lamb of God (Willan) (S 158)

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of God, that



ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have  
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of  
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep us in everlasting life. *Amen.*

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*For those remaining at home, a Spiritual Communion is offered. This is a personal devotion that anyone can pray (at any time) to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances prevent them from receiving the elements.*

For those worshipping with us from home, we pray together with you:  
**Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your grace and be renewed for your service. Amen.**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
**Eternal God,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**SENDING FORTH**

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Body and Blood of Christ. **We who are many are one body for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

## ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding (Merton) (H 59)*

*Descant*

2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE *The King Shall Come (Charles Callahan, arr.)*

**Serving today:**

**Ministers of Music:** Organist Dennis Flynn, Eric Vinciguerra, and Choir

**Lector:** Barbara Sheperdigian **Prayers:** Tom Cochrane

**President:** Rev. Diane Stier **Director:** Alice Ciccu

**Greeters:** Mary Kiesgen & Laura Cochrane **Acolyte:** Misha Proctor

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Ford & Pamela Dingman

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The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, ec, Rector

Dr. Nancy Herman-Kinney, Senior Warden

Clancy DeLong, Treasurer

St. John's Episcopal Church is a parish of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

*The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, Bishop Provisional*

The Episcopal Church

*The Most Rev. Dr. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop*

The Worldwide Anglican Communion

*The Most Rev. Dr. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury*

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*Prayers are taken or adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, Enriching our Worship, the Book of Occasional Services 2018, and the New Zealand Prayer Book*

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## *Advent Lessons & Carols*



Please join us for a candlelight service of Advent Lessons and Carols  
at St. John's on December 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

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**“Greening” of the Church and Parish Picnic**

Mark your calendars for Sunday Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, the last Sunday of Advent, where we will gather immediately after Eucharist to “Green” the church on the last Sunday of Advent and share some Holiday cheer with a picnic in the Parish Hall.

There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex beginning Sun Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and the meal will be Italian style. Pasta, Salad and Garlic Bread Oh My! There will also be games and just time to sit and visit with one another as we move towards the end of 2022.

If you want to sign up for something but won’t be in church next weekend, please email or text me, Jennifer Dingman, [djdingman@charter.net](mailto:djdingman@charter.net) 989-488-7085, and I’ll mark you down.

Please join us, we are looking forward to seeing you there!

PS the church picnic was originally announced for Sun Dec 11<sup>th</sup> but in looking at everything else that was happening on that day, we decided to move it to Sun Dec 18<sup>th</sup> instead.

## **We pray this week...**

For Michael, Presiding Bishop; Prince, our Bishop Provisional, and for our diocese; and Bonnie, Bishop of Michigan, Rayford, Bishop of Northern Michigan.

For Moisés, Bishop of the Dominican Republic

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury

For Craig, Bishop of ELCA.

For The Anglican Church of Melanesia

For Joe, our President; Gretchen, our Governor; and all who make decisions for this nation.

For Diane, our Rector; Dennis, our Organist; Eric, our Choirmaster

For all those in our diocese discerning calls to ministry, especially Joe, Barrett, Matt, and Anne Marie

For the newly ordained deacons in our diocese: Alex, Alicia, Derek, Joanna, and Kurt

For our lay ministers, lectors, choir, acolytes, greeters, and hospitality hosts

For St. Andrew's, Gaylord – Pam Lenartowicz, Priest-in-Charge

For Grace Church, East Grand Rapids – Anne Schnaare, Rector

For the members of St. John's, especially those celebrating birthdays this week: Diane & Jim

For the members of St. John's especially: Jerry, Jessica, Hazel, Ezra & Ari, Jim & Patricia, Joan, Kathy, Ken & Lois, Kevin, Jillian & Byron

For those on the Prayer Group's list, especially Alma, Amy, Bill, Brent, Diane, Gabriel, Jess, Kathy, Nancy, Therese, Tom & Tony

For all who have died.