



SECOND SUNDAY OF

# *Advent*

**Sunday, December 5, 2025**

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Service Theme

## **IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE JUDGE**

The judge is an important person. You stand when he enters the courtroom. What he says must be obeyed. If you are the one on trial, his determinations make a big difference in how your life will continue. You might be quite nervous if the judge is about to arrive. John invited people to turn their nervousness to repentance. He says that the arrival of the Judge is imminent, and the kingdom of heaven is near! You are invited to hear John, repent, and believe the good news of the coming Savior.

## Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Candles

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

**We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

We hear his call to repent.

**We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

### 312 Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 312



- 1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so
- 2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each
- 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert
- 4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing  
dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no  
far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem  
more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y\_a day;  
king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their  
now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their  
Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys  
now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."  
ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois. Text and tune: Public domain

## The Service

### *Service Setting Two (page 172)*

#### **Confession**

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,  
words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a  
sinner.**

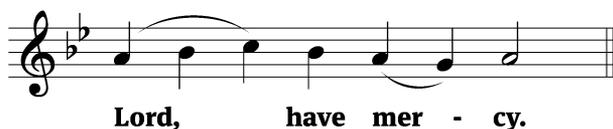
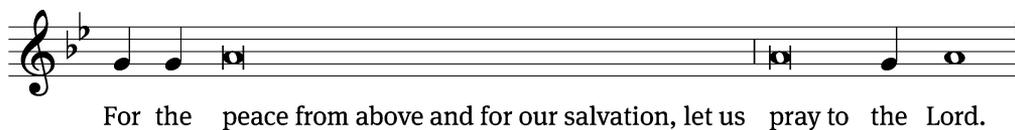
*Silence for meditation and reflection*

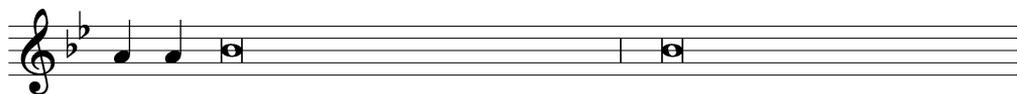
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 174





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.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

# Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,  
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we  
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your  
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
 peo - ple on earth. For you a -  
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,  
 with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
 peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading

*Isaiah 11:1–10*

*Isaiah describes the one who will come to judge.*

<sup>1</sup>A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,  
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will 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.

<sup>3</sup>He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears  
with his ears,

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the poor,  
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the  
oppressed on the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath from his lips he will put the  
wicked to death.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,  
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear will graze together,  
and their young ones will lie down together.

The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,  
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's  
den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy  
mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>This is what will take place on that day. The peoples  
will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a  
banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be  
glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### 130A Out of the Depths

Psalm 130A

*Refrain*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD,  
LORD, hear my voice.

Tone



Out / of the depths  
I / cry to you, O LORD;  
Lord, / hear my voice.  
Listen closely as I / call on you for help.

LORD, if you kept / track of sins,  
O / Lord, then who could stand?  
But with you there is for- / giveness,  
in order / that you may be feared. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my / soul waits,  
and in his / word I put my hope.  
More than watchers wait for / morning  
my / soul waits for the Lord.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,  
for with the / LORD is faithful love;  
with him is complete re- / demption.  
He will redeem Israel from the / guilt of all their  
sins.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the / Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be for- / ever. Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Lectionary for Mass Tune: James J. Chepponis

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## Second Reading

Romans 15:4–13

*God's people face the coming judgment with hope, not fear.*

<sup>4</sup>Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope.

<sup>5</sup>And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. <sup>9</sup>He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and I will sing to your name.

<sup>10</sup>And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

<sup>11</sup>And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples give him praise.

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,  
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;  
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

<sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And all people will see God's salvation. Alleluia.

## Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

*John prepared people for the arrival of the Judge by emphasizing the nearness of the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” <sup>3</sup>Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

<sup>4</sup>John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. <sup>6</sup>They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! <sup>9</sup>Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup>Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# 316 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW 316



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,  
for a Guest with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
up to fall no more; O make your face on  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Matthew 3:1–12

### The Kingdom of Heaven is Near!

- 1) Receive Christ in genuine repentance.
- 2) Let His reign in your heart show in your life.

## **Apostles' Creed**

CW 181

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated 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.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and  
sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

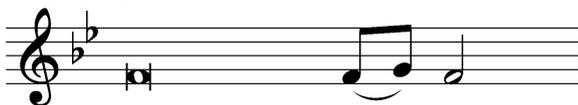
**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

# Offertory Prayer

## The Sacrament

CW 183

### Preface



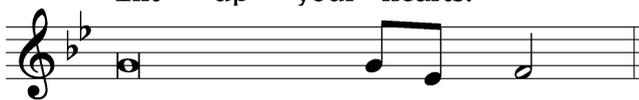
The Lord be with you.



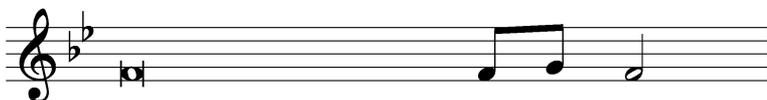
**And al - so with you.**



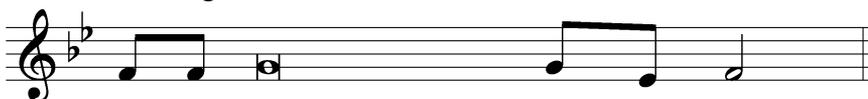
Lift up your hearts.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1984, 1985, 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

# Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

## **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

# Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus, Lamb of God'. It consists of seven staves of music in a single system, all in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves contain the first line of the hymn, the next two staves contain the second line, and the final three staves contain the third line. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with some phrasing slurs.

## Distribution

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

**Amen.**

### 318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

CW 318



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with  
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the  
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."  
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.  
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.  
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889. Text and tune: Public domain



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## **Announcements**

### ***Church Cleaners***

December 14 - Mark / December 21 – Thomas

### ***Christmas Flowers***

Anyone wishing to help beautify the Altar for Christmas Eve and Day services, please drop off the plant(s) of your choice (traditionally poinsettias) to the church by Sunday, December 21st. You are welcomed to take your plants home after the Christmas Eve and Day worship services or, if you wish, you may leave them at church to continue to beautify the altar for upcoming worship services.

### **Acknowledgments**

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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## DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (7) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**  
**10:30 am Worship with Communion**  
11:45 am First Fellowship  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**  
4:00 pm Bible Class (Poltimore)
- We (10) 9:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)  
5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)  
7:00 pm New Communicating Christ (Adult)
- Fr (12) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
- Sa (13) 9:30 am Visitation for Pastor Pfothenauer  
at St. Paul Lutheran Church  
11:00 am Funeral for Pastor Pfothenauer  
at St. Paul Lutheran Church
- Su (14) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**  
**10:30 am Worship**  
11:30 am Coffee hour  
**11:45 pm Voter's Meeting**
- Tu (16) 7:00 pm Elders Meeting
- We (17) 9:30 am Communicating Christ (Adult)  
5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)  
7:00 pm New Communicating Christ (Adult)
- Fr (19) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study
- Su (21) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**  
**10:30 am Worship with Communion**  
11:45 am Coffee hour  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**  
4:00 pm Bible Class (Poltimore)