

Second Sunday of Advent

BERGEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 5, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.



The Boundless Advent Series:

God offers us so much more than we could ever want or need.

*Love – **Joy** – Peace – Hope – Spirit – Life*

Gathering

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

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

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
God for whom we wait,

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.

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. **Amen.**

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 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.

Please be seated.

Word

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

PSALM: LUKE 1:68-79 READ RESPONSIVELY.

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

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

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

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,⁷⁵ holy and righteous

before you, all the days of our life.

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

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

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

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.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I 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. ⁷It 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. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand.

Alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia. (*Luke 3:4, 6*)

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-36

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.

¹In 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, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as 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.

⁵Every 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;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand for our confession of faith.

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

This is our prayer— that the love of God poured out for us in Jesus Christ might overflow in the world.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, we live in confidence and faith, trusting that you have begun a good work among us and that you are bringing it to completion, even now. Make us witnesses and partners in your work as we watch and wait and hope and pray for the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share the peace with a wave to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please be seated.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Janie and Jonnathan Miller's First Communion
(Janie and Jonna and their family come forward.)

What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Jesus Christ's introduction of the Lord's Supper is found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and in Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Jesus took bread and wine and presented it as his body and blood to his disciples. The Christian church continues this sacrament to this day. What benefit do we receive from such eating and drinking?

The benefit which we receive from such eating and drinking is shown us by these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins," namely, that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

It is not the eating and drinking that does this, but the words here written, "Given and shed FOR YOU for the remission of sins." These words, along with the eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament; and

whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

Would Janie, Jonna and their family members please face the congregation?

We welcome you as communing members of Augustan Lutheran Church and the world-wide Christian community. Together we will explore the mystery and wonder of Holy Communion and accept Christ's gifts of grace and salvation that come to us through this holy sacrament.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, thank you for Janie and Jonna who stand before us now. As they grow in years, deepen their faith in Christ and their trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for their parents, grandparents, and other family members that support and love them, and help every one of us to see ourselves, others, and the world through Jesus' loving eyes. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:26-28

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 14:22-25

²²While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.'²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

Luke 22:14-20

¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.'¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.'¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in

my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing
gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

Sending

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

BLESSING

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.
Amen.

CHIMES OF BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.



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Gathered in Faith ~ Sent to Serve

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