**2nd Sunday of Advent- December 4, 2022**

**Zion Lutheran, Philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

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

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples. We give thanks to the Creator for this great gift and recognize our responsibility as treaty people to care for the land and waters that nourish us and give us strength.

**CALL TO WORSHIP\***

We come to prepare the way;

**The way for Christ –**

the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –

**to enter our world, to enter our hearts.**

We cry out together in the wilderness:

**The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

We come to be part of the light–

**the light that shines in the darkness.**

**WREATH LIGHTING- SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit’s fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen.

**GATHERING SONG*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (ELW 249)**

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS (ELW p. 221)**

Welcome to worship on this 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2022. Some windy weather greeted us this week.

Trevor is away this week, he could not find a replacement so we are using youtube. The musician’s name is Mary Munson and we give thanks for her talent.

Pastor Doug Kranz was going to be preaching at Zion, St. Agatha next Sunday Dec 11, but has had to cancel due to some health issues. Zion, Philipsburg members are still welcome to attend, there will be refreshments after the service.

A reminder about our Dec 18th service, it will be a different type of Advent service with carols, poems and reflection. Treats will be served after the service, if you have an extra tray of goodies to share that would be wonderful.

Collecting food for WFRC- canned soups and stews, rice, fruit, pudding cups, canned pasta, canned tomatoes, tuna, peanut butter, and cloth bags.

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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 (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David’s royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

 1A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
 2The 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.
 3His 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;
 4but 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. 5Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
 6The 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.
 7The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
  and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 8The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. 9They 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.
10On 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

 1Give 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;**
 3that 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 he oppressor.**
 5May 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.**
 7In 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!**
 19And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

**SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

A reading from Romans.

*God’s promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God’s blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God’s family.*

4Whatever 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. 5May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 7Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8For 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, 9and 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”; 10and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;
11and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;
12and again Isaiah says,
 “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
 in him the Gentiles shall hope.”13May 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3This 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.’ ”
4Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
 7But 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? 8Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9Do 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. 10Even 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.
 11“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. 12His 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Prepare the Royal Highway* (ELW 264)**

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!
2 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! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: Refrain

**Nicene CREED (ELW p. 217)**

Together with the whole church let us profess our faith

**We believe in one God,** **the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,** **of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,** **eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,** **true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,** **of one Being with the Father;** **through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation** **he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;** **he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again** **in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven** **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,** **and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\***

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*Or, “who proceeds from the Father.” The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. *A brief silence.*

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. Bring healing and comfort to all who are ill or injured, especially Sarah, Anne, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Carole, Susan, Marg, Yvonne, Sidney and Drew, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for Zion, St. Agatha in this last month of their ministry. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive our gifts and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)**

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

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.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*All Earth Is Hopeful: Toda la tierra* (ELW 266)**

1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see, how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he his present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

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