



Second Sunday of Advent:  
John Says Yes  
December 7, 2025



# The Gathering

*The assembly's parts are in **bold type**.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

In the wilderness a voice cried out, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

**We come, ready to listen and to turn toward God.**

John said "yes" to God's call and invited others to do the same.

**We, too, long to say "yes" to God's renewing work.**

The One who is stronger is coming—bringing fire, Spirit, and new life.

**Come, Lord Jesus; prepare your way in us,  
and send us out to share your love.**

## GATHERING SONG

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1) Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy  
2) Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and



peo - ple free. From our fears\_ and sin re - lease\_\_ us; let us  
yet\_\_ a king. Born to reign\_ in us for - ev - er, now thy



find our rest\_\_ in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own\_\_ e - ter - nal



la - tion, hope of all\_\_ the earth\_ thou art, dear\_\_ de -  
me - rit, rule in all\_\_ our hearts\_ a - lone; by\_\_ thine



sire\_\_ of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to\_\_ thy glorious throne.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

In this Advent season of waiting and watching, you call us again to turn toward you, to be washed of all that weighs us down, and to live as people shaped by your grace. Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, our Advent hope, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

We light two candles for two people: you and me. The way of Jesus is not easy, and so we light it together.

**We light two candles to say YES to the invitation  
to walk the way of Jesus together.**



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, you called John the Baptist to say “yes” to your wild and urgent call— to prepare the way, to speak truth, and to invite your people to turn toward life. Open our hearts to hear that call today. Give us courage to say “yes” to your Spirit, to repent of what harms, to bear fruits of justice and mercy, and to make room for Christ’s coming among us and within us. Through Jesus Christ, the One who is coming and is already here. **Amen.**

# The Word

*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.*

A reading from Isaiah 11:1-10.

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—  
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.  
The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations  
will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*John challenges the religious leaders (Pharisees and Sadducees), warning them that true repentance must bear good fruit, not just rely on status or heritage. He announces that someone greater than he is coming: Jesus.*

The gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 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.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and 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. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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.”

This is the gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## SONG OF THE DAY

### O God of Peace, You Sent Us John (Tune: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

1. O God of peace, you sent us John who called, "Pre - pare the way!"  
2. We wait for Christ and look a - round at all that is not good.  
3. We hear the words that John pro-claimed as we a - wait Christ's birth.

He chal - langed all we coun - ted on and pro - mised your new day.  
We see the crook - ed pla - ces found and in our own neigh - bor - hood.  
We long for peace to come one day and fill this trou - bled earth.

He cried out in the wild - er - ness and made the path - way straight.  
We see it with - in this land we love and the chil - dren cast a - side.  
Could it be that we're called to be peace - mak - ers in our day?

He filled the val - leys, smoothed the roads, and taught us how to wait.  
May we who long for peace be moved to an - swer when they cry.  
By do - ing so, O God, may we a - gain pre - pare the way.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. In peace we pray,

**you hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. In peace we pray,

**you hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. In peace we pray,

**you hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Be with those who are ill, especially those we now name out loud or silently in our hearts. *(30 seconds of silence)*.

In peace we pray,

**you hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. In peace we pray,

**you hear our prayer.**

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. In peace we pray,

**you hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **The Thanksgiving**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of every good gift, we offer what we have back to you, knowing that your Son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Bless our time, talent, and tithes, that they may benefit our community. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always. **Amen.**

## INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

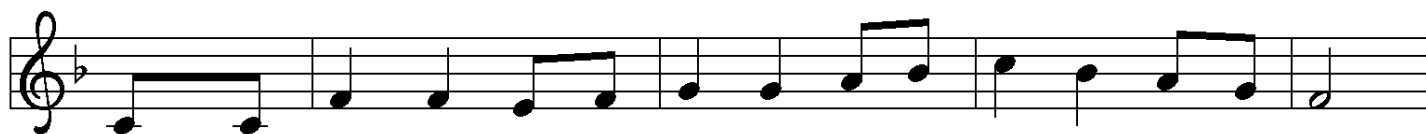
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will make all things new on the day He comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, with the an - gels let us sing.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, sing ho - san - na to the King.



Praise the one sent by the Fa - ther, ho - ly gift from heav'n a - bove.



Sing ho - san - na to the Sav - ior. Cel - e - brate God's gift of love.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

As we await Jesus' birth with hope, we ask you God to pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith and with your people worldwide. **Amen.**

## **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 THE TABLE**

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

# **The Sending**

## **BLESSING**

May God bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you;  
May Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world;  
And may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never alone,  
and that you are loved beyond measure. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

Blessed Be the God of Israel Vs 1, 3

ELW 250



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Pastor: Rev. Courtney Geibert Minister of Music: Terry Williams

Pianist: Tony Marriott

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