

Grace Lutheran Church

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Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music

December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

Power Upended

Today's gospel begins with a list of seven national, regional, and religious rulers. If you want to know power, look no further than these names. And yet, plunked down next to these power brokers is John, a ragamuffin in the wilderness. God chose John as his messenger, dismantling any ideas that we need political or social power in society to be useful to God's mission.

John may not be a political titan, but his message is authoritative. John commands us to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Luke 3:4), to begin major construction on the systems and structures of our world. Valleys will be filled, mountains will be leveled, and crooked ways will be straightened out. This is no small project that John has in mind!

But before we go rounding up the bulldozers, notice how this upending is going to take place. John doesn't arrive with heavy equipment, nor with the power of armies or wealth. Instead, God empowers the wilderness wanderer with nothing but the word *repent*. John arrives with a call to stop looking to the power brokers for our peace but instead to return to God, who can level mountains with a few ordinary folks willing to claim a different kind of power.

This call to return to God is a radical notion inviting us to enter God's vision for a world ruled not by power over others or by false peace, but by love. It is a call not to overthrow, but to clear the path in our hearts and in our world to receive God, who provides ultimate peace. Returning to God, we see possibility where before we saw hopelessness. Returning to God, we enter a place of desolation—the wilderness—and see that God transforms it into a place of redemption, new life, and abundance. As we prepare to welcome the Christ child, let us answer John's call to repent, embracing God's ultimate peace as we fervently pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, come."

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don't forget to check both sides of the card.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the expected Messiah, who came in an unexpected way, as the baby Jesus. The color of the season is blue (like the night sky), representing the Christ who is called Dayspring (source of day).

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn

Soon and Very Soon

ELW 439 (red book)

The CELEBRATION OF LIGHT ON THE ADVENT WREATH - Bethlehem Candle

- P** From the one who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty God: grace, light and peace be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**
- A** With joyful hearts filled with hope,
- C** **we delight as the circle of light grows wider in the darkness of winter.**
- P** In this season when we decorate our towns and homes with lights and color,
- C** **may we also be busy decorating our hearts as well.**
- A** Let us deck the halls of our hearts with deeds of compassion for the poor, with acts of love and service to one another, and with kindness to our friends and strangers.
- C** **Let the preparation and decoration of our hearts rival the joyous beauty of our homes and cities.**

I

The advent of our God we seek,
 The coming of our Lord.
 We seek the Lord of Grace who saves:
 The Savior – loved – adored.
 We pray for Jesus’ coming
 Into our world of sin.
 We hope for life, we pray for Christ,
 our God, who dwells within.

II

All glory be to Christ, the Son
 who died upon the tree.
 All praise to God the One who makes,
 Creates and makes us free.
 Sing to the Holy Spirit
 who moves among us still.
 We hope for life, we pray for Christ,
 our Lord Emmanuel.

The RESPONSIVE LITANY of SEEKING

- P** What do you seek?
C We look for God’s presence.
- A** Where do you seek the coming of God?
C We look for God’s presence here in this place.
- P** We come seeking the Lord of grace.
C We look for God’s gift of love.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray, Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
C 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

Sit

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

📖 A reading from **Malachi**:

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

📖 Lord God, your Word is a lamp to our feet,

🎵 **we give you thanks and praise.**

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God". The second staff continues the melody for the second line: "the dawn from on high will break up - on us." The third staff shows the beginning of a new musical phrase, likely the start of the chorus or a new section, with a key signature change to D major (two sharps).

Psalm - Luke 1:68-79

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 pre- | pare 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 shad- | ow of death,**
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. 


Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

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.

 A reading from **Philippians:**

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.

 Lord God, your Word is a lamp to our feet,

 **we give you thanks and praise.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, 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.

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **Luke**.

☛ **Glory to you, O 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 Ituraea 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.**

Sit

Children’s Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

Drawn to the Light

ELW 593

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☛ As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

☛ Prepare your church to share the good news, life-giving God. Put your word within us and dwell among us. Send us out to proclaim the mercy and salvation that abides in you. Embolden your church to take up the cross against the powers of oppression and death, and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrysanne, David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, Christ Lutheran Church in Wyoming, Nashville United Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you,

☛ **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Protect the creation, life-giving God. Sustain the mountains and hills. Restore the rivers. Give us wisdom and compassion to care for wilderness areas and urban ecosystems. Move us to care for your creation in all its forms and richness. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Purify the hearts of all people, life-giving God. Remove the hate that lives within us and among us. Mold us into peacemakers. Raise up leaders rooted in your love and fed by your word. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Zack Green (Mikolajczyk), Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (Burdicks) and Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls)*. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Comfort all who hurt, life-giving God. Wrap them in your tender care. Remember the forgotten and send us out to share your love with them. Be with the wandering, the worried, and the woeful. We pray especially for *Dan Anderson, Dave Bolton, Ellie Clark, Vicky Dame, Angie Drozd, Wendy Eifler, Colleen Endsley, Opal Gillons, Wes Gillons, Karl Golnek, Nikki Haddix, Cameron Haddix, Charlene Hall, Delmer Hansen, Larry Hansen, Mary Jane Hayner, Tim Lowe, family of Chad Miller, Kathy Rann, Kailie Triick, George Ulrich Jr., and Sue Walker*. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Bless this congregation, life-giving God. Give strength and joy to worship leaders, musicians, and our altar guild as they prepare the way for the celebration of the Christ child's coming among us. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A We remember the generations who have shown us your faithfulness, life-giving God. Shine your light on those who mourn and prepare us for that day when we will see you face-to-face. We lift our hearts to you,

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Arise in body or spirit.

Let the Vineyards

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

▣ Let us pray . . . God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

▣ Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Sharing the Peace of God

▣ The peace of Christ be with you always.

▣ And also with you.

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are as follows:

♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so 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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, 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 Lord,
 Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

- Ⓟ Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
 - Ⓢ **You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.**
 - Ⓟ In 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- Ⓢ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- ☐ Remembering, therefore, Christ’s life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
- ☑ **By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want.**
- ☐ By this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
- ☑ **Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen**

Lord’s Prayer

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- ☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy 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.**

Invitation to Communion

- ☐ Taste and see that the Lord is good.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

- ✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.
- ✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.
- ✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.
- ✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.
- ✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.
- ✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

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

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 247

Day of Arising

ELW 374

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ELW 445

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son.
- ⓐ **By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be Christ's body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Congregational announcements

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

☐ God's blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you all, now and always.

☑ Amen.

*All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing. **In the weeks to come this will end and be replaced during Children's Time.***

Sending Song

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

Dismissal

☐ Surrounded by God's people of every time and place, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 9	Services at 8:00 am and 10:45 am Pageant Practice 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Children's Church 10:45 am
Monday, December 10	Outreach 4:30 pm
Tuesday, December 11	Women of Faith 1 pm at Applebee's BOG 6 pm at Seasonal Grille
Wednesday, December 12	Advent Service 6 pm Meal 7 pm Service
Thursday, December 13	Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm
Saturday, December 15	Pageant practice 11 am – 2 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Chris Bush	Carol Morgan
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Hope Peck
Usher	Kay Marsh & John Burdick	Doug & Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack & Carol Vos	John & Mary Kleinbrink
Children's Church		Doug & Diane Neeb
Table Guild	Lisa Golnek	
Bread Maker	Laura Scheck	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, December 16, 2018

	10:00 am
Assisting Minister	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Kate Watson
Lector	Kristi Winick
Communion Server	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Clyde Watson
Usher	Ed & Luke Domke
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Deb Wilke
Children's Church	~
Table Guild	Lisa Golnek
Bread Maker	Laura Scheck

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 136 Weekly Giving: **\$3,769.00** Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

Noisy Offering will be collected today in both services to benefit Barry County Cares.

Adult Forum will study the gift of Jesus as Pure Through and Through this week. Next forum will study the Signs of the Times.

Advent Services *Journey into the LIGHT* continue Wednesday evenings. There are two nights left December 12 and 19. We gather for a meal and worship. The meal begins at 6:00 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm. If you cannot make the meal, please join us for worship.

Brothers of Grace Christmas Dinner Night Out. Attention all men – you are invited to join BOG at the Seasonal Grille this Tuesday, December 11 at 6 pm. If you haven't done so, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area.

Women of Faith are meeting at Applebee's on Tuesday, December 11th at 1 pm.

Vocal Choir will sing Christmas Eve. If you want to sing and Thursday evening rehearsals at 6:30 pm do not work for you, please talk to Cindy Olson.

The Social Activities Committee would like to invite you to **Jesus' Birthday Party** with a pot luck luncheon after the 10 am service on December 16th. Help us celebrate **the reason for the season!**

Giving Tree is ready to accept articles such as mittens, scarves, hats, socks, shoes and cleaning supplies, such as paper towels, ammonia, bathroom spray cleaners, etc. Just bring in what cleaning supply you like to use, and it will be appreciated.

Mutual Ministry is here for you. If there is a ministry concern, please contact Julian Kratochvil. Julian is our member of the Mutual Ministry Committee that is highlighted this week and can be reached by a phone call or a text message at 806.336.0661. Each week there will be a featured different member to contact.

Pre-Service Hymn Sing December 30th!

Email Prayer Chain: The Congregational Care Committee is starting an email prayer chain beginning in January. Participants would be notified by email and would commit to praying for those in need as requests are received. This new program is intended to compliment, not replace, the ministry our Shepherd's Ministry already provides to our members. If interested in being a part of this prayer chain, please contact Jane Secor at secorje@gmail.com.