

**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church**



**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Family of faith, God is at work!

**God is healing and creating,**  
redeeming and dreaming,  
**calling and sending,**  
listening and loving.

**Yes, indeed, God is at work!**

So may we worship our God who never gives up.

**May we worship our God who holds onto hope.**

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

#249

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

In a world full of fear, where do you see  
glimmers of peace?

**We see glimmers of peace in the quiet  
of early morning, when people shake  
hands, when loved ones say they're sorry,  
and when the church sings together.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world,  
peace is all around us.

Today we light the candle of peace as a  
reminder of this good news. May this  
flicker of light help us remember that  
even in a fearful world, peace is present.  
We only have to look for it.

*Candle is lit.*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Near the end of his ministry, John the Baptist reached out to Jesus with a heart full of anxiety. John was in jail. He knew he might not get out, so he asked Jesus, "Did I make a mistake? Am I making a difference here? Or did I get it all wrong?"

Like John, let us be fully honest with Jesus about our innermost thoughts. We can pour our heart out to God because God always meets us with grace, tenderness, and mercy.

So friends, let us go to God in prayer. Let us be honest, just like John the Baptist. Let us pray.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**On-the-move God,  
we have every reason to hold onto hope.  
We have every reason to believe that spring will come,  
that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.  
And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers.  
With anxious hearts we cry out to you,  
“Will change ever come? Will things ever get better?  
Will I ever make a difference?”  
Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining.  
Show us the places where you are on the move.  
With open hearts we pray,  
Amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, in our honesty,  
**we are heard.**  
In our worries,  
**we are held.**  
In our failings,  
**we are forgiven.**  
In our fear,  
**we are not alone.**  
Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!  
**When we’re running out of hope, God is still at work.**  
Thanks be to God!  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Merciful God, we need your Word and a reason to hope. Move through this space today and speak to us as only you can. Speak a word of hope deep into our weary bones. Above all else in this world, we need you. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 43:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches,  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:1-11**

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. <sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **SERMON**

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

Suzanne Bowen

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

#250

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We have seen the valley.  
We have seen a sky without stars.  
We have seen the longest night,  
and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God.  
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.  
We believe that good news  
is louder than fear.  
We believe this good news  
is for all people.

So even when our knees shake,  
even when our voice trembles,  
even when fear is all around us,  
we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other.  
We will look for God in our midst.  
We will sing songs of joy.

We will proclaim:  
Unto us, love is born.  
We have seen the longest night,  
and we have seen unimaginable love.  
So still, we believe.  
Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## OFFERTORY

*We Are Waiting for Jesus*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE 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.**

**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.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

## COMMUNION BLESSING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENDING HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

#264

### THE BLESSING

**May you remember that good news is louder than fear.**

### SENDING

Go in peace, and

**be not afraid!**

Adapted from Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

*He Came Down*

Text: Cameroon traditional; Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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