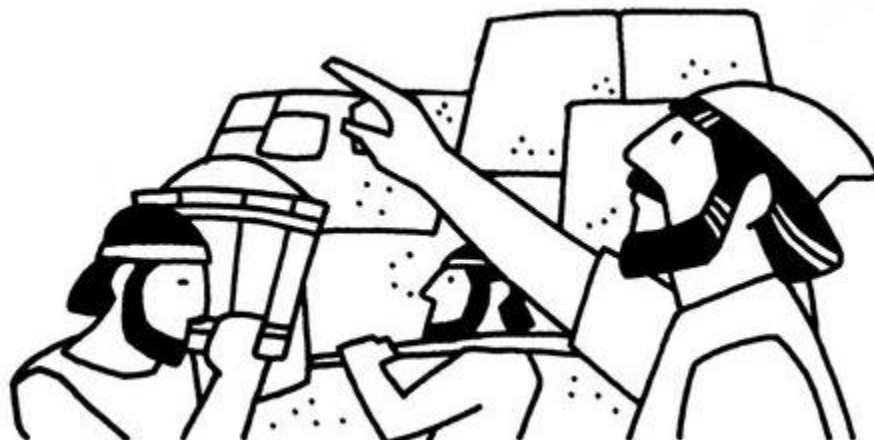


# Sunday, December 8, 2019

## Second Sunday in Advent



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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### **Pastor James Muske**

**320-583-5796**

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 218-839-8193

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 218-839-8193

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

#### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, December 8, 2019

## Rebuilding the Temple

### INTRODUCTION

*The Jews in today's reading are trying to determine what it means to live into a new future that God is creating in their midst. The future, indeed, would not be the past. What gives continuity to the past, present, and future, however, is the faithfulness of God.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP: "Prepare the Royal Highway" #264 ELW**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" #244 ELW**

*Please rise on the last verse*

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

**Amen.**

Let us come before the living God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,  
**we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, † Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of restoration,

**you brought your people home from exile and in their joy they rebuilt your temple. Deliver us from our personal and communal exiles, and help us to build up your church. Amen**

*Please be seated*

**PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM:            “He Shall Reign Forevermore”**

**SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION:            “Thy Word”**

**FIRST READING:    Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13**

### **Chapter 1**

<sup>1</sup>In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom, and also in a written edict declared: <sup>2</sup>Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. <sup>3</sup>Any of those among you who are of his people — may their God be with them! — are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel — he is the God who is in Jerusalem; <sup>4</sup>and let all survivors, in whatever place they reside, be assisted by the people of their place with silver and gold, with goods and with animals, besides freewill offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem."

### **Chapter 3**

<sup>1</sup>When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were in the towns, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his kin set out to build the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as prescribed in the law of Moses the man of God. <sup>3</sup>They set up the altar on its foundation, because they were in dread of the neighboring peoples, and they offered burnt offerings upon it to the LORD, morning and evening. <sup>4</sup>And they kept the festival of booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day, <sup>10</sup>When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the LORD with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; <sup>11</sup>and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,

"For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel."

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the LORD,

because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. <sup>12</sup>But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, <sup>13</sup>so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

*Please stand*

## **GOSPEL READING      Luke 2:25-32**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

The word of the Lord

### **Thanks be to God**

*Please be seated*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:    "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"    #254 ELW**

*Please Stand*

### **APOSTLE'S 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

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of promise, your reign has come near. Call your people to the way of repentance and inspire your church to bear fruit in the world through acts of faithful service. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and all species whose lives are intertwined. Repair and preserve ecosystems (*here local examples may be named*), that all life on earth may be sustained. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach those with power and privilege to serve the vulnerable. Give to all leaders wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and a heart of compassion for the world you so love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the poor, set tables of abundance in all places where hands are empty, where stomachs ache with hunger, and where hearts and minds suffer pain. Feed and heal all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of hope, renew in your people all joy and peace in believing, especially those facing anxiety, depression, or alienation. Guide this community of faith to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of eternal life, you promise to take away our sin and gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors on earth, freed from pain and the power of death (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

**OFFERTORY HYMN:**

**“Silent Night ”**

**#281 ELW**

## **OFFERTORY**

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate.  
Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Giver of every good thing,  
**we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER – LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.  
(Communion by intinction - red wine; white apple juice)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

**Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**           “Little Drummer Boy”

**Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship!  
Please come again.**

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: The Praise Team

Greeters: Winnie Z., Sylvia Tapelt

Ushers: 8:30am: George & Kathy Larson 10:00am: Dick Stebbins, Darrell Kelly

Hospitality: Lee & Barb Forrester, Pat Becker

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week - *Cancelled*

Attendance: Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019: 8:30am   0   10:00am   0  

### THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

December 2 through December 15, 2019

Monday	12/9	9:00 am	Women's Devotion at Pat Becker's
		11:30 am	Double Deck Pinochle
		1:00 pm	Stewardship
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/10	12 – 2 pm	Pastor's Text Study
			<b>Men's Fishing Trip Reservations &amp; Deposit Due</b>
Wednesday	12/11	9:00 am	Bible Study
		10:00 am	Stitchers
		2:00 pm	Care Give Support Group Meeting
		5:30 pm	Cantata Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	12/12	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		11:30 pm	Potluck & Funtimers
Friday	12/13	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Saturday	12/14	9:00 am	Cantata Dress Rehearsal
		1:00 pm	Choir sings at Aicota Nursing Home
Sunday	12/15	9:00 am	Cantata
		10:15 am	Sunday School

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRAYER & CARE:** The family of Audrey Kullberg. Audrey passed away peacefully on November 29th, in Minneapolis. Her wishes were to have a private, family service in the Twin Cities, which will occur near Christmas. She also wanted to thank all of her Bethesda friends with a simple remembrance during coffee hour and fellowship after a Sunday services. We hope to make this happen in January. Thank you for your prayers and love.

**ANNUAL CANTATA** December 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am. This will start our winter schedule of only one service at 9:00am until Easter.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS** (continued)

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. This information is gathered for annual reports to the Synod.

**BLESSING BOX** This Sunday we will pass the "Blessing Box". If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. All donations will go to local area benevolences. Thank you! What a Blessing!

**JOIN IN THE FUN!** Support our fund-raising activities in 2019-2020. Check out the "Gift Basket" items for December provided by the ROMEOS. Purchase a \$1 raffle ticket to win. The winner will be drawn the last Sunday of the month during Fellowship hour between services.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** meets Wednesday, December 11th at 2pm. This group is for anyone who is a caregiver now or has been one in the past.

### **CHRISTMAS GIVING - SECRET SANTA FOR BETHESDA'S CHILDREN**

Looking for some Secret Santa's in our congregation to pick one of our Sunday school or confirmation children's names and purchase a gift of \$25.00. Each child has an envelope hanging on the "Christmas Giving" bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Gifts need to be wrapped and delivered to the church by Sunday, December 15th, 2019. The gifts will be opened during fellowship on the 15th of December after the Cantata.

**MEN'S FISHING TRIP** will be January 13-15<sup>th</sup>. Signup sheet are in the Narthex. **Signup and deposit money is due by December 10<sup>th</sup>.** See Skip for more info.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING** This year Bethesda will be donating children's sweatpants, sweatshirts, hats, mittens, scarves, etc. to the Isle & McGregor elementary schools. You can place these items on the Tree in the Narthex starting today.

**NEED A GIFT IDEA?** Check out the display in the fellowship hall and consider ordering farm animals and other items from the ELCA or sponsor a child thru Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry.

**CHRISTMAS CARING & SHARING** Once again we are wondering if you know of a neighbor in need of a food / gas gift card this Christmas season. Our mission is supported by the veggie stand donations and individuals who designate their gifts to local needs. See the display in the Narthex.

**POINSETTIA SETUP** Join us on Thursday, December 19th at 10:00am to help decorate the church for the holiday season. Poinsettias will be for sale in the Fellowship hall starting today. They are \$15/plant. Purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one.

**HYMN FEST** John Kozial, Jr. will be joining us on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> to perform a "Hymn Sing" for our Sunday service at 9:00am. The Congregation will be able to request their favorite holiday hymns for the service that day.