

Sunday December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

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Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or

Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST:

BLESSING BOX The first Sunday of every month we pass the “Blessing Box”. If you feel blessed, please contribute to the Blessing Box today to help others. Today’s donations will go to The Villages of Hope in Zambia. Thank you!

GRIEF SHARE CLASSES are on Tuesdays at 3:30pm and will last about 1 hour. All welcome.

2022 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held today at 10:30am. Reports are available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S CLUB meeting is on Thursday, Dec. 15th at 12:30pm at Wahkon Inn. See the poster on bulletin board for more information or call Lois Johnson 320 684-2000 for reservations.

JOIN US for a meal after the Christmas Day worship service on Sunday, Dec. 25th

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK available today after service in the Nurse’s Office.

TEMPLE TALK IN JANUARY Our first month of service for next year will be HOPE (Healing Opportunity Provided Equally) that is located in Aitkin. A box is set up in the fellowship hall with a donation/wish list that you may contribute to. All donations will be given to them on January 8th when they join us at our worship service to explain their service to our community. Thanking you in advance for your help.

CALLING ALL LADIES! Glory Baptist Church is inviting all women to an afternoon of music, joy, encouragement, dessert, and tea! December 7th starting at 1:30pm in the Glory Worship Center (28053 360th Ave, Aitkin, MN). Presenting “The Sounds of Christmas” - led by Jenni Thyng of Joy in All Seasons.

ZION LUTHERAN’S SANTA LUCIA LUNCHEON will be held on Friday, December 9, 2022, from 11am-1pm at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca. Traditional Swedish meal; cost \$12 per person. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE for Alene Lowe. Tuesday, December 13th, from 1:00-4:00pm at Jimmy’s Event Center, 3565 Labore Road, Vadnais Heights, MN.

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**December 5, 2022 – December 13, 2022**

Monday	12/5	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/6	3:30 pm	Grief Share
		4:00 pm	Bell Practice
		5:30 pm	Cantata Choir Practice
		6:30 pm	Praise Team Practice
Wednesday	12/7	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday	12/8	8:00 am	ROMEOS
Sunday	12/13	9:00 am	Worship in person & live stream
		10:30 am	Annual Congregational Meeting

TEMPLE TALK: “Villages of Hope, Zambia”**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

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.

CANDLE LIGHTING MUSIC: “Filled with Hope and Gratitude”**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed
from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one**

another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on **+** Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “All are Welcome”

#641 ELW

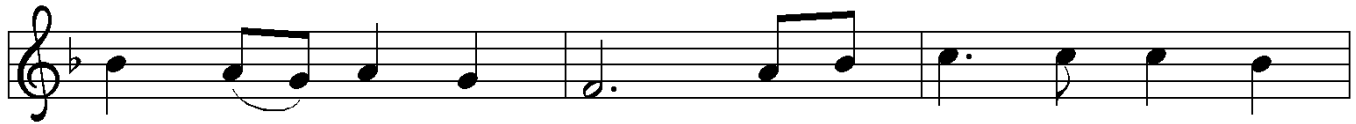
(Please Stand on the last Verse)



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Jesus Messiah”

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The 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.

³ His 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; ⁴ but 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.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The 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.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.

⁹ They 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.

¹⁰ On 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19 *(Read Responsively)*

¹ *Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.*

² **May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

³ *May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in*

righteousness.

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

Please stand for the gospel

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Blest be the God of Israel”

#250 ELW



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 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.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 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
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 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.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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NICENE CREED

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.

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 (*especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today*).

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. 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 (*local examples may be named*). We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate

OFFERING - *Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God,

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

Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Go Now”

Dakota Road



vs. 1 Filled with the Ho - ly Spir - it
 vs. 1 *Lleno del Es - pi - ri - tu San - to* go now with God,
 vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand to a stran - ger *va - mos con Dios,*
 vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us
 vs. 4 Cross - ing ev' - ry bound' - ry, ev' - ry na - tion



go now with God. In - to the world as a serv - ant
va - mos con Dios. En - tran - do al mun - do pa - ra ser - vir
 Trust - ing in the ris - en sav - ior
 Grace on the jour - ney sur - rounds us
 Danc - ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion



go now with God, go now with God. Go now,
va - mos con Dios, va - mos con Dios. Va - mos,



go now, go now with God.
va - mos, va - mos con Dios.



Go now, go now, go now with God.
Va - mos, va - mos, va - mos con Dios.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

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

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Adult Choir

Ushers: Dennis Hennessy & Julie Swaggert

Greeters: Sue & Sam Samuelson

Hospitality:

Thank you for your service!

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, November 27, 2022: In Person: 9:00am: 80 Online: 10