



Second Sunday in Advent

December 7th & December 8th, 2024

The Season

Advent is Latin for "coming." In the season of Advent, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time he will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.

The Sunday

Today we hear the voice of John the Baptist calling us to repent. The call to repent is a gracious invitation to set down our work to make way for Christ's work. Our church continues to call sinners to repent. That includes each of us because we are sinners who need to hear the good news about Jesus. As we break ground for a new church building, we pray that in it we will continue to call sinners from the wilderness of this world to refreshment in Christ.

Prayer before Worship

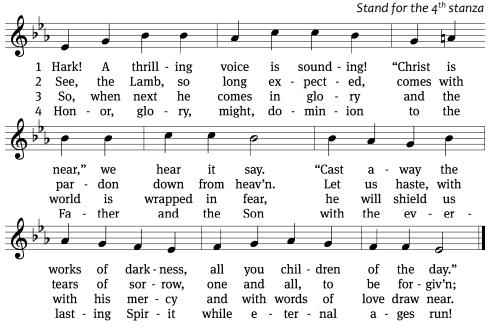
"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord." Give me joy, dear Jesus, as I prepare to worship you today. Make me understand what my life would be like without you so that I long to hear about your grace and compassion. Help me participate in a way that honors you and builds up all who worship with me, and let their worship strengthen and encourage my faith.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Timothy Henning Organist: Laura Schulz







Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text and tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

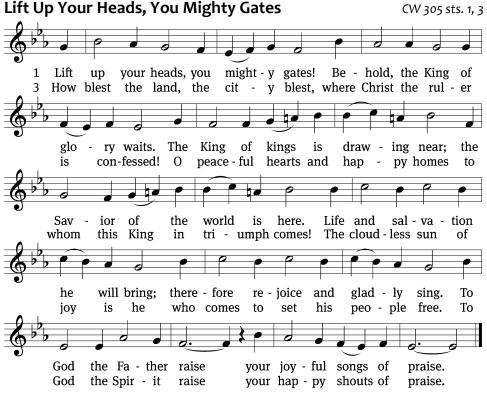
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Georg Weissel, 1590–1635 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

Song

"By Faith" St. Lucas Lutheran Elementary School (K-8)

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-7b

The Lord encourages his people to return to him in humble repentance.

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

 6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 7 Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them.

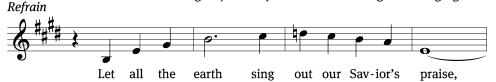
Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sat. - Sung responsively between Pastor & congregation

Sun. - Sung responsively between Sixers Singers & Congregation





Tone



Shout for joy to God, / all the earth!

Sing the glory of his name; make his praise / glorious.

Praise our God, all / peoples,

let the sound of his / praise be heard;

he has pre- / served our lives

and kept our feet from / slipping. Refrain

Come and hear, all you who / fear God;

let me tell you what he has / done for me.

If I had cherished sin / in my heart,

the Lord would not have / listened;

but God has surely / listened

and has / heard my prayer.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be-/ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Tune: David Haas

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Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

God began his good work in us at our baptism, empowering us to produce fruits of repentance.

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

We hear his call to repent.

We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Two Advent candles are lit.

Stand

Gospel Luke 3:1–6

John the Baptist prepared people to meet their Savior by preaching a message of repentance and forgiveness.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch 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 country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

5 Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

6 And all people will see God's salvation.' "

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated



Sermon

Luke 3:1-6 A Voice Still Calls

Stand

The Third Article (Sanctification)

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering: God's people offer their first and best to the Lord in response to the Lord's blessings to them. The offering is gathered in a basket in the church entrance before or after the service. If you prefer to give electronically, you may scan this graphic to access www.stlucaswels.org/donate.



There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

CW 308



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Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**



Groundbreaking (Sunday)

The congregation assembles at an appropriate place near the building site.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are here to ask God's blessing as we set apart this ground for the building of our new church.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe. Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

In love you have joined us to the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, and adopted us as members of your family. You created and nourished our faith by the power of the Spirit through the means of grace. You have enabled us to unite with others to form a Christian congregation where we gather around Word and sacrament and work together to be your witnesses in this place and around the world. We worship today with thankful hearts as we set aside and sanctify this ground for a new church.

Eternal Father, may your glory dwell here and may your grace be proclaimed here in the message of the gospel. Pour out your love in Christ on all who gather here and impart to all the certain hope of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven" (Genesis 28:10-17).

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash" (Matthew 7:24-27).

Groundbreaking

The chairman of the building committee or another lay leader presents the spade to the minister. The minister, breaking the ground, says:

We break this ground in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Other designated individuals may turn over the ground saying:

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for leading us to build a house for your honor and worship. Give your grace to all who will be involved in the work of building, that the construction may be successfully and safely completed. Set apart this building for the proclamation of your saving gospel, that your holy name may be worshiped here in spirit and in truth for many generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.



Text: tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.; Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr. Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting Nine from Christian Worship

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Church Resources

Family Devotions: Get your family into God's Word during the week! Our church body has short devotions available for the entire family. Each devotion comes with a Set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Please visit **wels.net/family-devotions** to get your weekly devotions.

Marriage Moments: Every marriage has its "moments". That's why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos directly through email at <u>welscongregationalsevices.net/marriagemoments</u>.

Connecting WELS Members: Connection is more important now than ever. Our church body offers many ways for WELS members to connect through social media. Join the WELS online community at facebook.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welslutherans, <a hre

WELS Together e-Newsletter: Stay in the loop! Subscribe to the WELS Together e-Newsletter to stay connected with the people of your synod and the ministry they serve. Also, don't miss the twice-monthly videos that cover important and exciting synod news. Please visit **wels.net/together** to read and subscribe.

Baptism: If you or a loved one had not yet been baptized, and are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Henning.

Church Membership Starting Point If you're interested in becoming a member here at St. Lucas, we would love to share with you a few Bible studies to introduce you to the biblical teaching here at St. Lucas. We are willing to set up these classes in any setting most comfortable for you, and can always find time that will work for anyone and everyone. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Henning, whose contact info can be found on the final page of this bulletin, underneath the church calendar.

Announcements

Upcoming Worship Schedule:

Wednesdays 12/11, & 12/13	6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Service	The Word Made Flesh is the theme for this year's series.
Sunday 12/8	9:30 am	Church Groundbreaking	Celebration and fellowship to follow in the gym.
Tuesday 12/24	4:00 pm		Lutheran Elementary School
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve	Sunday School
	10:00 pm		Candlelight Service
Wednesday 12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day	Service with Holy Communion
Tuesday 12/31	6:00 pm	New Year's Eve	Service with Holy Communion

Choir for Special Services: Would you enjoy singing with a choir for the Christmas Candlelight Service and/or Christmas Day Worship? Speak with Pastor or Mrs. Henning, or Mike Baumann for more details. Rehearsals will be held after the Wednesday Thanksgiving Service (November 27, 6:30 pm service), and the Wednesday Advent Services (December 4, 11, & 18, 6:30 pm services). High School age members and older are invited.

Time and Talent Forms: As an opportunity to thank God for blessing you with time and abilities, as a chance to work together with your fellow believers, and as a way to save on costs for the new church building, Time and Talent forms are available in the back of church and in the office. Please fill out the form if you are interested in volunteering and return it to the box in the back of church or to the office. The back of the form is for expressing interest in bidding for various aspects of the building. If you know anyone who is in the trades and would like to bid on the project, please take a form and pass it on to them.

Celebrating God's Blessings This Week:

BIRTHDAYS

BJ Prost	12/8	La Vern Geidel	12/12
Dylan Sarauer	12/8	Eliana Schepp	12/14
Sandra Landvatter	12/10	Peyton Scheunemann	12/14
Sienna Hatch	12/11		

CALENDAR

Readings for December 8th - December 15th 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Isaiah 24:14-25:12 Obadiah 1-21 1 John 2:15-29	Isaiah 26:1-19 1 John 3:1-24	Isaiah 26:20-27:13 1 John 4:1-21	Isaiah 28:14-29 1 John 5:1-21 2 John 1-13 3 John 1-15
Sunday School/Bible Study 8:15 am		Bible Study - 6:30 pm	Catechism Instruction 6th-8th Grade 3:30 pm
Worship 9:30 am (Groundbreaking Service)			Worship 6:30 pm
Groundbreaking Celebration - 10:30 am			Choir Practice - after service
Piano: Festival of Trees - 11:00 am			
DEC 12	DEC 13	DEC 14	DEC 15
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Isaiah 29:1-14 Jude 1-25	Isaiah 29:15-30:14 Revelation 1:1-20	Isaiah 30:15-26 Revelation 2:1-29	Isaiah 30:27-31:9 Revelation 3:1-22
			Wanshin O am

Jude 1-23	Revelation 1.1-20	Revelation 2.1-27	
Fuel for Moms - 7:45 am Bible Study - 6:30 pm		Worship 6:00 pm Worship 8 am Sunday School 9:15 an Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am	n
		St. Lucas Lutheran Church strives to be a congregation the is always inviting, always edifying, and always equipping www.stlucaswels.org	ıat g.
		Contact Information	
		Pastor Timothy Henning (262) 707-6984 - thenning@stlucaswels.org	
		Principal Mark Hesse (920) 915-1130 - mhesse@stlucaswels.org	
		School/Church Office (262) 626-2680 - <u>church@stlucaswels.org</u>	