



**FAITH LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH

7075 Pacific Avenue S.E.  
Lacey, WA 98503

[www.faithlutheranlacey.org](http://www.faithlutheranlacey.org)  
[www.flschool.org](http://www.flschool.org)

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**W O R S H I P**

8:15am – Traditional  
9:30am – Gather & Grow  
10:30am - Contemporary

**C O N T A C T**

Church: 360-491-3552  
School: 360-491-1733  
Childcare: 360-491-1118  
Pastor: Greg Strand  
541-231-8166  
[pastorgreg@flschool.org](mailto:pastorgreg@flschool.org)

*“Raising Up  
Families and Followers  
of Jesus Christ”*

## Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024

8:15 am

*Peace*



## PREPARING THE WAY

### AS WE GATHER

In this month of December, we find ourselves getting ready and preparing for many things, such as gatherings with family and friends, gifts to get and give to others, traditional treats to be made, and decorations for the season. The foremost preparation, of course, is for our Savior's birth. Today we are reminded of another time of preparation that would be after Jesus' birth and prior to His earthly ministry—that of John the Baptist, who would prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In our busy times of preparing to celebrate this season, today we draw our focus on and give thanks for the one who would raise valleys, level mountains, and make straight the paths for Him.

### + PREPARATION +

#### INVOCATION

Leader In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation **Amen.**

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *John 1:5, 9; 14:27; Luke 2:14; Psalm 4:6–8*

Leader We light our second Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Congregation **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader The second Advent candle has been known by a few different names, including the Bethlehem candle, the preparation candle, and the candle of peace. As we await the angelic proclamation of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased," we rejoice in the present reality of the peace Christ has assured in and through Him until perfect and eternal peace is ushered in upon His return. In this season, and until that day, we find comfort in His assurance: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Congregation **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

Leader Guided by the light of peace, we respond with the psalmist: "There are many who say, 'Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O Lord!'

Congregation **You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

Leader In peace I will both lie down and sleep;  
Congregation for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”

(Two Advent candles are lit.)

### 357 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL *sts. ref, 3-4*



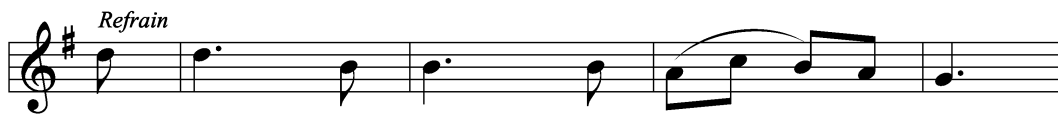
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Re - joyce! Re - joyce! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

### CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4; Luke 3:5-6; Philippians 1:6*

Leader Malachi prophesies about the call of the one who would prepare the way for the Lord -- the call fulfilled by John the Baptist. He would preach a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. We, too, seek the forgiveness our Lord has promised, assured for us as we come before Him in humble repentance.

Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
Congregation who made heaven and earth.

Leader If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?  
**Congregation But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

Leader Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us stand before Him in humble and contrite confession.  
**Congregation We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and left undone, and we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.**

Leader We have not loved the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength,  
**Congregation and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Leader We justly deserve present and eternal punishment, but for the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray:  
**Congregation Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Leader Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He who began a good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Congregation Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

**INTROIT FOR ADVENT 2** *Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13*

**Congregation The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."**

Leader Hear, O My people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to Me! I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. But My people did not listen to My voice; Israel would not submit to Me. Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!

**Congregation Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
**The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."**

## SALUTATION

Leader The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *Malachi 3:1–7b*

<sup>1</sup>“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But 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. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM *Psalms 66:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>Shout for joy to God, all the earth; <sup>2</sup>sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! <sup>3</sup>Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. <sup>4</sup>All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.”

<sup>5</sup>Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. <sup>6</sup>He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, <sup>7</sup>who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, <sup>9</sup>who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip. <sup>10</sup>For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. <sup>11</sup>You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs; <sup>12</sup>you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

**EPISTLE**      *Philippians 1:2–11*

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Reader            This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation**    **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**            *Luke 3:4b, 6*

Leader            Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

**Congregation**    **all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**    *Luke 3:1–20*

Leader            The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

**Congregation**    **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

<sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’”

For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup>But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup>added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Leader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Pastor Greg

### 344 ON JORDAN’S BANK THE BAPTIST’S CRY



1 On Jor - dan’s bank the Bap - tist’s cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ’ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. Composite Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

### APOSTLES' CREED

**Congregation** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

**OFFERING** <https://faithlutheranlacey.breezechms.com/give/online>  
or text to give, 360-732-8020.

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Philippians 1:3–11*

**Leader** Let us pray for the church, for the people of God, and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gathering of us together around Word and Sacrament, as You call, gather, and enlighten us through Your Spirit. Keep Your church united in truth, as Christ has completed His work for the sake of humanity as we await His return. As You continue to work in us and through us Your grace and mercy, empower us by Your Spirit to live holy lives according to Your will and to live as Your witnesses among our neighbors, coworkers, and community. As we pray to You now, we also pray with Paul upon ourselves and all believers who call upon Your name:

**Congregation** **"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of**



**this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”**

Leader Be with all who bear Your Word, including those who serve as missionaries both near and far. Grant open ears and eager hearts to receive the good news of a Savior given, and forgiveness assured. For all who face trials, persecution, and even death for confessing Your name, grant a steadfastness of faith even in the most dire times.

Congregation **“It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.”**

Leader For all who are sick, lonely, and in need of comfort, we lift them up to You, [*including . . .*]. According to Your will, grant healing. According to Your promises, remain with them with the comfort and peace of Your presence in times of affliction. Be with doctors, nurses, and medical staff as they use the gifts and abilities given to them. Help us and others to serve as Your instruments that we may show compassion in times of need, speak words of hope in times of hopelessness, and serve according to needs had in times of helplessness. For all people, as we prepare to receive and rejoice in the Savior given and born for us, keep us prepared for the day of His coming again.

Congregation **“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”**

Leader Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation **Amen.**

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

Congregation **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

## **CLOSING SENTENCES** *John 1:5, 9*

Leader The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Congregation **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

## BENEDICTION

Leader The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Congregation Amen.

## 343 PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent. Tune: Public domain

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish*, Series C, Quarter 1.

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