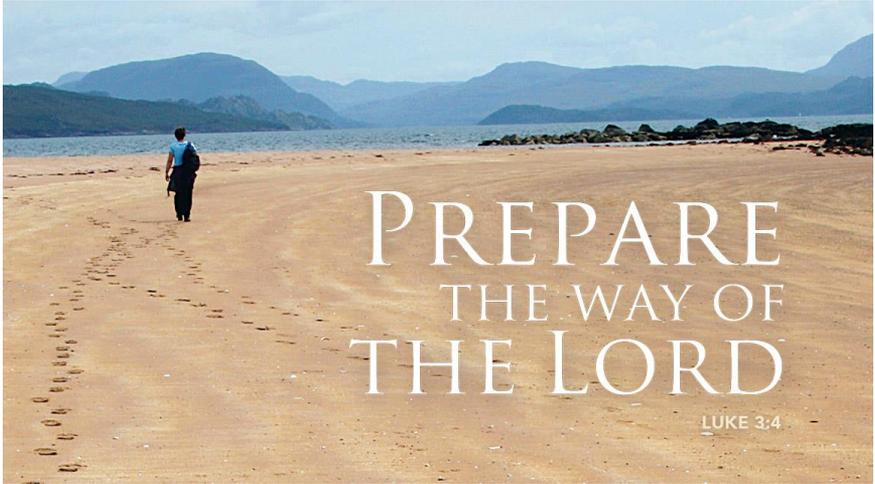


Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
945 W. Round Bunch Rd., Bridge City, TX 77611
(409) 735-4573



Fifth Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE Variations on *Puer Nobis* - Aaron D. Miller

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, who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN “Hark, the Glad Sound!” **ELW 239**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND GREETING

The candles of the Advent wreath are lit.

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. **Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE **ELW S529**

Worshippers are invited to sing the refrain as indicated below. The cantor will sing the verses.



Turn to us again, O God, our Savior, let your anger cease from us.

Lord, have mercy.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Show us your compassion, O God our Lord, grant us your salvation.

Christ, have mercy.



Christ, have mer - cy.

Come and bring salvation; we wait, O God; may your glory dwell in us.

Lord, have mercy.



Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. **By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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.

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But 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; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah

and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY: Luke 1:68-79

Worshippers are invited to join the choir in singing the refrain as indicated below. The choir will chant the psalm text.

In the ten-der com - pas - sion of our God, the
dawn from on high shall break up - on us.

*Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets, he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. **REFRAIN***

*This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness, and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **REFRAIN.***

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my

imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Worshippers are invited to join the choir in singing the refrain; the choir will chant the verse.



Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel, according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler 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 region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry”
Stanzas 1, 3, 5 **ELW 249**



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Candidate: Isaac Andrew Hall
Parents: Desiree and William Hall
Sponsors: Jennifer Guffey, Chance Istre

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. The power of sin is put to death in this holy flood, and we are raised with Jesus Christ to new life. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent out in mission for the life of the world.

The sponsors present the candidate.

Sponsors: *We present Isaac Andrew Hall for baptism.*

The presiding minister addresses the parents.

Trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized? Response: *We do.*

As you present your child for baptism, you are entrusted with gifts and responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace among all people. Desiree and William, do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: *We do.*

The presiding minister address the sponsors.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: *We do.*

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support Isaac and pray for him in his new life in Christ. **We do.**

The presiding minister addresses the parents and sponsors.

I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? Response: *We do.*

Do you turn to Christ as your Lord and Savior? Response: *We do.*

The presiding minister address the assembly.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day, he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our
thanks and praise.**

Water is poured into the font as the Thanksgiving is read.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through water you led your people Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection, you delivered us from the power of sin and death and set us free to live in you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon this water and upon all who are washed in it, that they may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The minister baptizes the candidate.

Isaac, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. **Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, wash them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

The presiding minister lays his hands on the head of each newly baptized person and prays for them.

Sustain Isaac with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Isaac, child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

A representative of the congregation presents a lighted candle to the baptized.

Walk in the faith of Christ crucified and risen. Shine with the light of Christ.

Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit. **We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

The baptized, sponsors and parents return to their seats as the service continues with the Prayers of Intercession.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

RECEIVING THE OFFERING

ANTHEM “What is the Crying at Jordan” - Brett Heim

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Please stand if you are able.*

Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. **Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW 190





Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

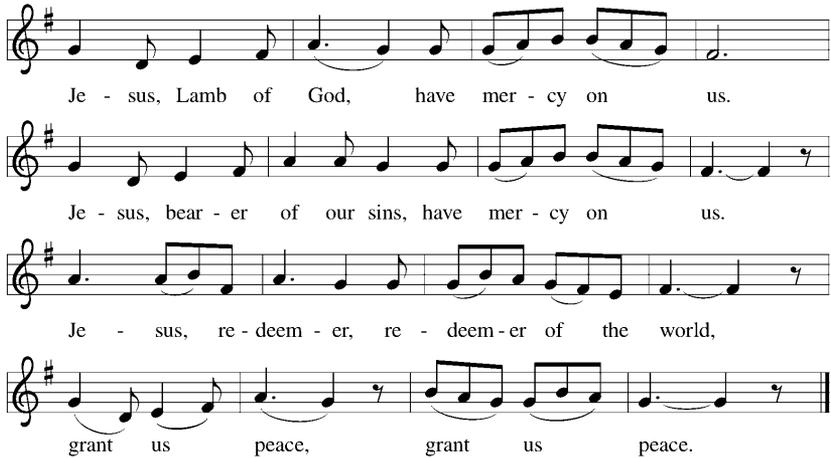
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW 199



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

“As the Dark Awaits the Dawn”

- Susan Cherwein /
Carl Schalk

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand if you are able.

Let us pray. you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. **In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ELW 254

DISMISSAL

Go in peace; serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Variations on *Lucent*

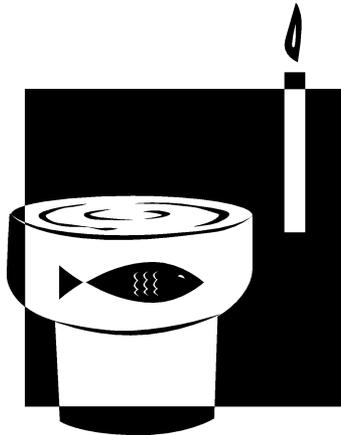
- David Lasky

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Life in the Wilderness

The American Red Cross offers a training called Wilderness and Remote First Aid, during which participants learn skills to be used in case of emergencies such as low blood sugar, hypothermia, and burns when professional help is unavailable or far away. For someone experiencing a health crisis in a wilderness setting, a companion with remote first aid skills can be lifesaving.

When Luke introduces John the Baptist in today's gospel, readers are told that the word of God came to John in the wilderness. The wilderness mentioned here brings to mind a place that is remote, sparsely populated, and rugged. Yet there is a sense of another wilderness being illuminated here as well—the wilderness of a messy world where some have wealth and status while others experience food insecurity, injustice, and homelessness.

It is into this wilderness that John the Baptist proclaims that one is coming through whom “all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6). Luke's intentional listing of all the authorities in power (vv. 1-2) indicates that he wants readers to know just how different John the Baptist and, more importantly, the one he proclaims are from the rulers of the day.

People were drawn to the message John proclaimed, yet throughout his ministry John was clear that it wasn't about him or his personal agenda but rather the work of God through him. He pointed to the Promised One and to the salvation Jesus offers. Like Jesus, John proclaimed a message that extended to the vulnerable and spoke of caring for our neighbors.

Similarly, as followers of Christ, we are commissioned to go into the wilderness, to bring good news to the little and the least, and to proclaim the work of God in our lives, through both our actions and our words. As we do, we bear witness to the promise that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the one who leads us from death to life.