



WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a “**Pray Ground**” for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs “a break” or “louder play”, there is an “**Active Worship**” room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Second Sunday of Advent PEACE

Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion

Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning
the way you feel comfortable.

All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!

Everybody Is Somebody Here

PRELUDE

Advent Band

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

We come to listen and receive God’s Word among us.

Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

We come to listen and prepare to receive God’s Word among us.

Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God’s Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God’s love throughout the world.

May God ignite our passion for God’s Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” ELW #242

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God’s coming salvation. “For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he 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” (Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God’s peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God’s grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God’s love throughout the earth.

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

SONG OF WAITING

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" vv 1-3

ELW# 283

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let Us Pray.

Compassionate God, **greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not bring peace, peace as you can give. Today help us to be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today help us to still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

All young and young at heart are invited forward during the Children's time.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

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.

L: The Word of our Lord C: **Thanks Be to God**

THE WORD

God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching, and song.



GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

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."

L: The Good News of our Lord C: **Thanks Be to God**

MESSAGE

Pastor Brent Erler

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW #264

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SHARING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY OFFERING Family of Christ Community Fund

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Lord, in Your Mercy C: Hear our prayers

HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the
forgiveness and presence
of Christ.

All are invited to receive
these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to
come forward and receive
communion or a blessing



BLESSING

THE SENDING

We are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's Love with all people.



PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

POSTLUDE

Special Thanks to Jeremy Mann and the Advent Band for providing special music today!



Serving Today

Pastor

Brent Erler

Musicians

Mary Wescott

Jeremy Mann and

The Advent Band

Sound and Video

Cheryl & Gerry Wills

*Thanks to all those who helped make worship possible.

Come, Let Us Adore Him

The Season of Advent is one of the highlights of the Christian Year. With this season, we launch another cycle of living into the story of Jesus and the church that emerges—of which we are a part. We sometimes think we need to find a new way of telling this story and do something fresh and unique. There is certainly space for that, but tradition and remembering the songs and stories from our beginnings can be a powerful invitation to grow as disciples as we grow closer to Christ.

So, we invite you to join us as we consider the Preparations and the Passion of Advent so that we might embrace the Presence and Promise of the Christ who comes. So, come, let us adore him.

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FamilyofChrist

FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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