



# Advent 2

December 4, 2022

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9:00 AM

*Welcome to our worship of the living God on this Second Sunday of Advent! At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians, He's the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there'll be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's Table, we're sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the Reign of God has come near.*

## GATHERING

**GATHERING MUSIC MUSIC**

**"Be Thou My Vision"**

*--arr. Stan Pethel; Jake Baringer, trumpet*

**ENTRANCE HYMN:**

**"Prepare the Royal Highway"**

**LBW 22**

*This hymn is printed on the following page.*

## ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING AND PRAYER:

*Pr Dave sings a line, we echo it... and we light the Advent candle[s] as we sing...*

*As the dark awaits the dawn... so we await Your light...  
Star of Promise, scatter night... loving bright, loving bright...  
Till shades of fear are gone...*

*As the blue expectant hour... before the silv'ring skies...  
We long to see Your day arise... whole and wise, whole and wise...  
O lucent Morning Star...*

*As the moon reflects the sun... until the night's decrease...  
Let Your healing light release... living peace, living peace...  
Unto Your holy dawn...*

*Shine Your future on this place... Enlighten every guest...  
Through us stream Your holiness... bright and blest, bright and blest...  
Come dawn, O Sun of grace...*

## 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 may 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 will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
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*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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*After singing this hymn, return to page 1 for the  
Advent Candlelighting rite.*

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## GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the + love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit are with you all.

*And also with you.*

Then let's pray: 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 Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

# WORD AND PRAYER

## PREPARATION FOR THE WORD:

*Martin Luther once said, "The Bible is the manger in which Christ is laid."  
Pr Dave will sing this chant alone the first time; then we'll sing it through two more times:*

*If in your heart you make a manger for His birth,  
Then God will once again become a child on earth...*

## FIRST READING:

**Isaiah 11.1-10**

**NRSVUE**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together— and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They won't 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. <sup>10</sup>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.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

*Thanks be to God!*

## SECOND READING:

**Romans 15.4-13**

**NRSVUE**

*St Paul writes:* Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.  
<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that He might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup>and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy. As it's written, "Therefore I'll confess you among the Gentiles and sing praises to Your name"; <sup>10</sup>and again He says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people"; <sup>11</sup>and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise Him"; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the One who rises to rule the Gentiles; in Him the Gentiles shall hope." <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL:           Matthew 3.1-12**

**NRSVUE**

***Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!***

The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew, the third chapter.

***Glory to You, O Lord!***

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This 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.'" <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance— <sup>9</sup>and don't 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. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that doesn't bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>"I baptize you with water for repentance; but the One who's coming after me is more powerful than I, and I'm not worthy to carry His sandals. He'll baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He'll clear His threshing floor and will gather His wheat into the granary, but the chaff He'll burn with unquenchable fire."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

***Praise to You, O Christ!***

*Oh, come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us Your will and guide our way.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!*

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: “On Jordan’s Banks”**

*ELW 249*

*On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for He brings glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*

*We hail You as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Your grace we waste away like flow’rs that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth Your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;  
Oh, let Your face upon us shine, and fill the world with love divine.*

*All praise to You, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.*

### **APOSTLES’ CREED:**

Let’s confess our faith in the words of our baptismal creed:

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

*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.*

*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.*

## **PRAYERS AND SHARING OF PEACE:**

Then trusting in this God, living in this Hope, let's pray for a world redeemed, the Church renewed, and all people restored in the Coming One:

God of timeless grace, You still meet us in the wilderness place to call us to Yourself. Clear from our hearts all that gets in the way of Your Spirit; implant Your Word within us and dwell among us; and send us out to proclaim and embody the mercy and salvation that abides in You. God, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Prepare the way for Your people of every language, tribe, and nation, and comfort them with compassionate leaders whose hearts are set on the ways of Your truth, righteousness, and justice. Guide our leaders to lead in the heart and the wisdom of Jesus, who cares for His flock with a shepherd's strong compassion. Bring peace to every land where violence, fear, and terror hold sway, and healing to all who've been victimized by such terror. God, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Prepare the way for all creation to share in the heralding of Your Reign, that every element may be infused with Your care and that all may come to thrive in the bounty of Your wilderness-blooming grace. God, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Prepare the way for those who live on the periphery of our communities, and through us be their tender strength, their comforting courage, and their living assurance that they're not forgotten. God, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Prepare the way for all who live in the wilderness places of sickness, grief, addiction, despair, the challenges of recuperation, or the nearness of death, that in Your presence with them, they may come to know not only comfort for their spirits, but renewal of strength and life. Comfort and heal them according to Your great wisdom and mercy, and remember those who've asked our prayers... God, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Prepare the way for the communion of Your saints to be realized more fully among us, that with all those who've gone before us, we may sing Your praises with one voice in heaven and on earth. God, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Prepare our hearts to receive You when You come to embrace us in love. Slash through the overgrown thickets of our insecurities, our self-justifications, and all the ways we've trampled on others en route to securing ourselves; tear us away from our complacencies and our easy surrender as slaves to sin; and open us to our deep need for You, that we may stop denying the truth about ourselves. Then have mercy on us and forgive us our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ. Transform our lives by Your Holy Spirit, that we may grow ever more fully into Your image and love. God, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

For into Your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Amen.*

Hear the Good News, my brothers and sisters: In the mercy of Almighty God,  
 Jesus Christ has given His life for you, and in + Him, you're forgiven!  
 Now reconciled to God and to one another, let's walk in Christ in newness of life,  
 for the peace of the Lord is with you always. *And also with you.*  
*Reconciled to God and to one another, we share a sign of Christ's peace.*

**MEAL**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES, WITH ANTHEM**

“Christmastime Is Here” --Vince Guaraldi; Jake Baringer, guitar; Todd Silvius, piano

**OFFERTORY HYMN:**

*ELW 814*

*We'll sing this through three times:*



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949  
 Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell  
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**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:**

Blest are You, holy, mighty, and merciful Lord!  
 You bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence!  
 We worship You for our lives and for the world You give us.  
 We thank You for the world to come, and for the love that'll rule all in all.  
 We praise You for the grace shown to Israel, the people of Your promise:  
 the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
 the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,  
 and the prophets' words that won't be in vain.  
 In all this we bless You for Your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord,

who fulfilled and will fulfill all Your promises.  
Living out Your death-defying love in word and deed,  
He gave His life for us even unto death on the cross,  
that filled with the Spirit of His resurrection, we might have eternal life in Him.

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 of them 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."

And so, remembering His life given for us, rejoicing in His rising from the grave,  
we await His final appearing when all things will be restored in Him.  
Now pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, that held and nourished by You,  
we who share the Lord's body and blood may live as His body in the world,  
shining with the light of Your Son.  
All this we pray with joy through our Lord Jesus Christ, who's taught 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.***

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Now we share God's consecrated gifts among God's consecrated people, knowing that our living Lord Jesus is fully present with us in His Supper, giving Himself to us in bread and wine and forgiving love. Today, we'll share the Lord's Supper by receiving the body and blood of Christ at communion "stations" at the altar rail. Come forward a pew at a time; take an empty glass from the tray, or a glass already filled with grape juice if necessary. Receive "**the body of Christ, given for you**" from the Pastor; receive "**the blood of Christ, shed for you**" from our communion assistant. We'll pause for silent prayer after we've all communed...*

*If you're joining us from your home, we invite you to share the bread and cup with one another. When giving the bread to your neighbor, say "**The body of Christ, given for you.**" When giving the wine/grape juice say, "**The blood of Christ, shed for you.**" Whatever's left over may be reverently eaten and drunk by everyone after our worship is over. Once we've all shared in the body and blood of Christ, we continue in blessing and prayer:*

# SENDING

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER:

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

*Amen.*

Faithful God, we give You thanks, for in this meal You've 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,

and guide us toward Your promised future coming to birth in Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

*Amen.*

## BENEDICTION:

And now may God our Creator grant you harmony with one another;

may Christ Jesus fill you with joy and peace in believing;

may the Holy Spirit empower you and fill you with hope;

and Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

*Amen.*

## SENDING HYMN:

**"Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding!"**

*ELW 246*

*This hymn is printed on the following page.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

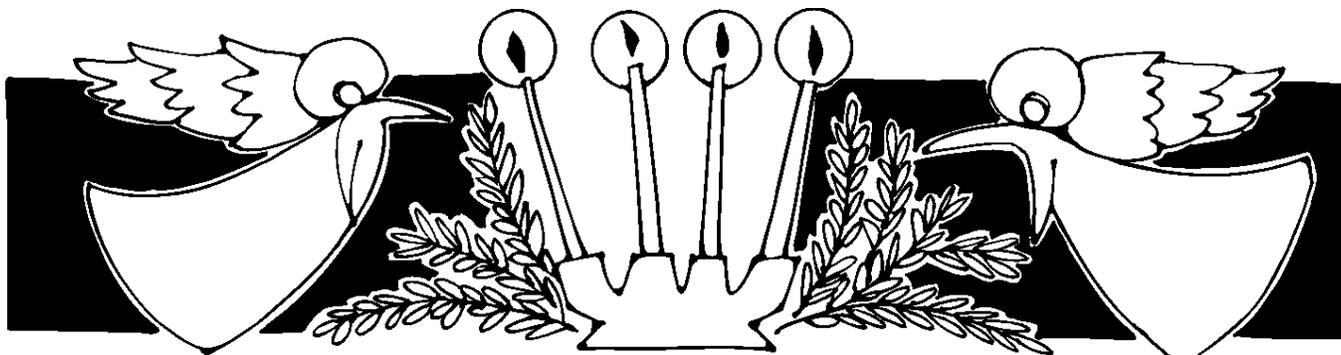
*We're it!*

What's our part in God's plan?

*Sharing God's love in joyful service!*

Then let's go in peace, live in joy, and serve the Lord!

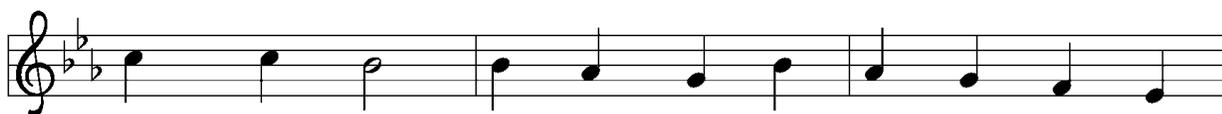
*Thanks be to God!*



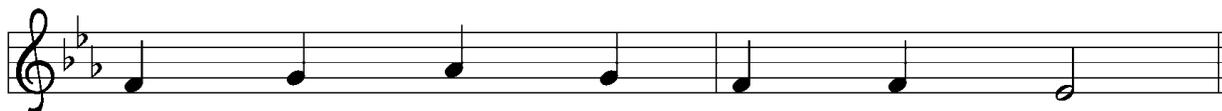
## Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"  
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
and with words of love draw near.  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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# The Voice of One Crying

It's the Second Sunday of Advent, which means it's time to brace ourselves for John the Baptist. Dressed in camel's hair and fueled by locusts, the curmudgeonly prophet raises his voice and lets us have it: "You brood of vipers!" "Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance." If you're looking for a soft, pillowy entry into the season before Christmas, John isn't going to provide it. There's nothing gentle or saccharine about him. "You brood of vipers!" Repent! Wake up! Bear fruit!

The Gospel of Matthew makes a point of telling us that John both appears and cries out in the wilderness. This is where the crowds gather to hear him— in a landscape that's desolate and barren. Why the wilderness? Why the lonely desert for our Advent reflections? If you have any experience with real estate, you know the mantra: "Location, location, location." Location is key. The place where we stand, the terrain we occupy, the space from which we speak— these things matter.

I've never seen John the Baptist featured on an Advent calendar or Christmas greeting card, but all four Gospels place him front and center in Jesus's origin story. John's gaunt austerity is the only gateway we have to the swaddling clothes, angel's wings, and fleecy lambs we hold dear each December. As baffling as it may seem, the holy drama of the season depends on the disheveled Baptizer's opening act. So again, why the wilderness?

For starters, because the wilderness is a place of vulnerability, risk, and powerlessness. In the wilderness, we have no safety net, no Plan B, no rainy-day savings account, no quick fix. In the wilderness, life's raw and unsettled, and our illusions of self-sufficiency shatter fast. To locate ourselves at the outskirts of security and power is to confess our neediness in the starkest terms. In the wilderness, we have no choice but to wait and watch as if our lives depend on God showing up, because they do. And it's into such an environment— an environment so far removed from safety as to make safety laughable— that the word of God comes...

But the Gospel of Matthew goes on. Not only is the wilderness a place that exposes our need for God; it's a place that calls us to repentance. "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near," John cries to those who seek him out. Elsewhere in the Gospels, we read that crowds stream into the wilderness to heed John's call. In other words, they leave the lives they know best, and venture into the unknown to save their hearts through repentance. Something about the wilderness brings people to their knees.

For us 21<sup>st</sup>-century Christians, though, "sin" and "repentance" are loaded words we try to avoid. Many of us, particularly those of us who grew up in fundamentalist circles, dislike the word "sin." We associate it with shame, guilt, and condemnation. Many of us also distrust the word because we've seen how easily it can be manipulated to justify one moralistic agenda over another. And yet, Advent begins with an honest, wilderness-style reckoning with sin. We can't get to the manger unless we go through John, and John's all about repentance. Is it possible that this might become an occasion for relief? Maybe, if we can get past our baggage and follow John out into the wilderness, we'll find comfort in the fact that something more profound is at stake in our

souls than, “I make mistakes sometimes,” or “I’ve got a few issues.” What ails us is something deeper, grimmer, and far more consequential.

What *is* sin, really? Growing up, I was taught that sin is “breaking God’s laws”; or “missing the mark,” as an archer misses his target; or “committing immoral acts.” These definitions aren’t wrong, but they’re incomplete— they don’t go far enough. They don’t name the fullness of what we struggle with. Sin, at its heart, is a refusal to become fully human. It’s anything that interferes with the opening up of our whole hearts to God, to others, to creation, and to ourselves. Sin is estrangement, disconnection, sterility, disharmony. It’s the sludge that slows us down, that says, “Quit. Stop trying. Give up. Change is impossible.” Sin is apathy, care-less-ness, a frightened resistance to an engaged life. Sin is the opposite of creativity, the opposite of abundance, the opposite of flourishing. Sin is a walking death. And it’s easier to spot, name, and confess a walking death in the wilderness than it is anywhere else...

John underscores his message of repentance with a harrowing description of the coming Messiah: “He’ll baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and He’ll clear his threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary; but the chaff He’ll burn with unquenchable fire.”

Are you squirming yet? How is this good news, this portrait of a Jesus who judges, sorts, and burns us?

I wonder if we squirm because we misconstrue the meaning of judgment. I tend to equate judgment with condemnation; but in fact, to judge something is to see it clearly— to know it as it truly is. In my dictionary, synonyms for “judgment” include “discernment”, “acuity”, “sharpness”, and “perception”.

What if John’s saying that the Messiah who’s coming really *sees* us— that He knows us at our very core? Maybe the winnowing fork is an instrument of deep love, patiently wielded by the One who discerns in us rich harvests still hidden by chaff. Maybe it’s in offering God every particular of our lives that we give Him permission to “clear” us— to separate all that’s destructive from all that is good, beautiful, and worthy.

Finally, Matthew suggests that the wilderness is a place where we can see the landscape whole, and participate in God’s great work of leveling inequality and oppression. “Prepare the way of the Lord,” John cries, quoting the prophet Isaiah. “Make His paths straight.” Unless we’re in the wilderness, it’s hard to see our own privilege, and even harder to imagine giving it up. No one standing on a mountaintop wants the mountain flattened. But when we’re wandering in the wilderness, and immense, barren landscapes stretch out before us in every direction, we’re able to see what privileged locations obscure. Suddenly, we feel the rough places beneath our feet. We experience what it’s like to struggle down twisty, crooked paths. We glimpse arrogance in the mountains and desolation in the valleys, and we begin to dream God’s dream of a wholly reimagined landscape— a landscape so smooth and straight, it enables “all flesh” to see the salvation of God.

Where are you located during this Advent season? How close are you to security and power, and how open are you to risking the wilderness to hear a word from God? What might repentance look like for you, here and now? Where is God leveling the ground you stand on, and what'll it take for you to participate in that uncomfortable but essential work?

Location, location, location. John the Baptist appears in the wilderness, and people stream to him there, hungry and ready. May we stream there, too. Like John, may we become brave voices in hard places, preparing the way of the Lord.

• *Debie Thomas*

## This Week at St Paul's

P = Parish House, F = Fellowship Hall

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
<b>Sun. 12/4</b> <b>Advent 2</b>	9:00 AM  10:00 AM 10:30 AM	Holy Communion in person and online: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live">www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live</a> Kringle Shoppe @ Haycock Community Center (until 4 PM) Fellowship Hour live and/or via Zoom: <i>[use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm]</i>
<b>Mon. 12/5</b>	7:00 PM	Evangelism Team via Zoom/FCC *
<b>Wed. 12/7</b>	6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Pre-Concert Soup Supper [F] Confirmation Class @ Trinity-QT Yerger Bldg. QCHS Varsity Singers Concert in sanctuary
<b>Thur. 12/8</b>	10:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Bible Study via Zoom/FCC * Cub Pack 007 [F] Scouts BSA Troop 007 [F]
<b>Fri. 12/9</b>	1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Al-Anon [F] AA [F]
<b>Sat. 12/10</b>	11:00 AM	"Christmas Carnival" Gift and Food Distribution @ Emmanuel Episcopal, Quakertown
<b>Sun. 12/11</b> <b>Advent 3</b>	9:00 AM  10:30 AM  10:30 AM	Holy Communion in person and online: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live">www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live</a> Fellowship Hour live and/or via Zoom: <i>[use meeting ID 839 381 0896, passcode 90e8Dm]</i> Sunday School [P]

\* If you'd like to participate in these **activities taking place over Pr Dave's Zoom platform**, go to [zoom.us](http://zoom.us), click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID 3700147169, and if it asks for a password, use 119805 and you should be in. If you're using your phone, these dial-in numbers will work: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 3700147169#, then 119805# and you're in. You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:**

- The Armed Forces, President Biden and his cabinet, Crossroads Pregnancy Care, David & Mary Johnson Sr., Morgan, Ally, Dontay, & Emily Hassler, Andrew Edmonds, Don & Karen Ludovici, Derek & Matt Ludovici, Barbara Graser, Bob Knapp, Bob & Charyl Westervelt, Ray Constable, Connie Slotter, Norm Diehl Sr., Amy Miller, Karen Capella, Chrissy Cousins, Bob Shimalla, Robert & Cheryl Ball, Melissa Manhart, Tammy Zepiora, Aaron Hamlin, Gary Hertzog, David & Carol Marks, Katie, Cassidy Owens, David Gullett, Kelly & Jim, Larry Young, Kelsey Shaak, the Evanchuk family, John Apple, Dr Jenn Phelps, Karen K., Bill Baringer, Michael Clement, Keith, Joe, Ron Diehl, Annabelle Weller; the people of Afghanistan and Ukraine; victims of natural disasters and gun violence; everyone struggling with COVID-19 and its containment
- Families and friends of Kamryn Jenkins and Martha Reumann.

**Serving in Worship Today:**

<b>Ushers:</b>	Gary Hertzog	<b>Altar Guild</b>	Marie Shaw, Wendy Gullett
<b>Communion</b>	Bruce Krogslund		
<b>Acolyte</b>	Linda Hertzog	<b>Bulletin</b>	Aundie Hamlin
<b>Counter</b>	Sara George	<b>Reader</b>	Rich Baringer

***This week's bulletins*** are sponsored by Bob and Winnie Knapp. ***This week's bulletins*** are sponsored by Sue and Larry Young in honor of Sue's brother's birthday.

We've resumed ***sharing Holy Communion at the altar via "continuous Communion/'stations"***, encouraging folks to come forward a pew at a time to ensure safer distancing. And we'll keep on ***"livestreaming" our worship services*** via Facebook Live ***AND streaming the audio of our services via our Free Conference Call line*** (857.232.0157, conference code 144261).

***Sunday School is back at St Paul's!*** We're meeting from 10:30-11:30 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. We have room for all students age 4 through fifth grade, with older kids being helpers/leaders— and if our recent VBS is any indication, we have a great group of students ready to welcome you. Spread the word and join us for Sunday School!

If you haven't brought your ***2023 Ministry Support pledge card*** with you to worship, please mail your pledge card to the church office c/o Wendy Gullett, financial secretary.

***Lutheran Disaster Response*** continues to work with companions in Ukraine, the Caribbean, and in our own land to providing refugees and disaster victims with immediate support and supplies as well as pastoral and psychological support and long-term reconstruction efforts— and we can be partners in those relief and rebuilding efforts. For more info or to give, go to [www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Ways-to-Give](http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Ways-to-Give). You can send your donations to Lutheran Disaster Response, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Your gifts will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by these disasters.

***Stewardship Note:*** As of October 31, our congregation's expenses for 2022 have exceeded our income by over \$22,500. We know that right now, funds are tight for everyone; but we ask you

to prayerfully consider how you might be able to support our ministry together. If you'd like to give electronically (via Simply Giving, our church website, or some other electronic means) and would like some information on how to do that, please contact the church office.

Our **Monthly Special** recipient for December is **Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks [AHUB]** and especially its **Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter**, which provides emergency shelter for homeless people when nighttime temperatures reach 26° or below. Last winter, Upper Bucks Code Blue provided such shelter for 55 different guests over 65 nights; and this winter, they'll be sheltering even more of our neighbors in need at the Masonic Lodge building in downtown Quakertown. Please give as you're able!

**Operation Christmas Child:** We made our goal of 75 boxes filled with gifts for overseas children in need. Thank you for your generosity!

The annual **Kringle Christmas Shoppe**, sponsored by the Haycock Historical Society, will be held this year from **Dec. 2-4** at the Haycock Community Center [1014 Old Bethlehem Road]. Everything at the Kringle Christmas Shoppe is the product of local artisans, authors, and specialty crafters, including our Latvian brothers and sisters; and throughout the event, local musicians (including our own Phil Diehl, Tom Schnabel, and Pr Dave) will be providing live music. Hours of the Kringle Shoppe are Friday 10:00 AM-7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM, and Sunday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. Invite your friends and come on out!

Our annual **Mitten Tree**, sponsored by our Social Ministry Team, is on display in the fellowship hall through Dec. 11 to raise funds for community outreach in and around our congregation. You decide what to give. Come grab a mitten, give what you can, and let's help our neighbors in need!

Thanks to our Social Ministry Team, our annual **Christmas Card Box** is available in the Narthex. Save yourself a stamp and bring in your cards by Dec. 18 for those who worship at St Paul's, placing your cards in this box for distribution.

This Wednesday evening, **December 7**, we'll be welcoming the Quakertown Community High School's **Varsity Singers** to St Paul's, with a soup supper in the fellowship hall at **6:00 PM** and the concert in the sanctuary at **7:00 PM**. A signup sheet for the soup supper is posted in the fellowship hall; if you're planning on coming to the supper (or can bring your favorite soup), please sign up there. Our own William Hansen is part of this fine choir— let's welcome him and his fellow musicians that night (and invite your friends to join you)!

Our Social Ministry Team's annual **"Homemade Heaven" Bake Sale** will be held **Dec. 11** after worship. There'll be plenty of cookies, cakes, candies, muffins, breads, and soups made by "little Lutheran ladies (and gentlemen)." Proceeds will support community outreach in and around our congregation. Everyone is welcome to contribute (and purchase) scrumptious yummys.

Our annual **Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist** will be held on **Dec. 24 @ 7:00 PM**, with special prelude music beginning at 6:30 PM. And we'll livestream this service as well— so if you have loved ones who can't make it in person, invite them to join us from wherever they are!

This year, Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on a Sunday— but we'll still be rejoicing in the grace of God on those days, even after late nights before! On **Christmas Day at 11:00 AM**, we'll share in "**Christ-Mass**" here at St Paul's— a simple yet intimate service of Holy Communion with plenty of carols familiar and new. Then on **New Year's Day**, we'll join our friends at Christ UCC in Trumbauersville at **11:00 AM** for a service of Holy Communion celebrating the **Name of Jesus** and the **Epiphany of Our Lord**. Let's gather as God's family around the Christmas Tree of Life and bask in the joy of Christ' self-giving!

Calling all "night owls"! AHUB's Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter at the first floor of the Quakertown Masonic Lodge has a significant need for **second-shift [2:00-7:00 AM] overnight volunteers**, both men and women. This is a relatively quiet shift, with the major responsibilities including guest laundry, getting our guests up at 6:00 AM and out by 7:00 AM, and assembling and distributing breakfast and "to-go" bags for our guests prior to their departure. If you're a "night owl" and are interested in volunteering, please see Pr Dave.

*For the latest announcement updates, go to:*

[docs.google.com/document/d/1aZi\\_IL0SHaQ1BOGFS\\_s3bt0oHoTQ4fCy9tO372PZioE/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aZi_IL0SHaQ1BOGFS_s3bt0oHoTQ4fCy9tO372PZioE/edit#)



*For more information on our ministries, please contact:*

**St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

837 Old Bethlehem Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

215.536.5789

[www.stpaulsqtown.org](http://www.stpaulsqtown.org)

[stpaulsqtown@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsqtown@gmail.com)

**Rev. David A. Heckler, Pastor**

570.470.0716

[prdaveheckler@gmail.com](mailto:prdaveheckler@gmail.com)