

Second Sunday in Advent
“Why He Came: Justice”

December 4, 2022

As We Gather

We need justice. Our world is in need of justice. So much corruption, deception, unfairness. Too many taken advantage of and denied what should be theirs. Biblical justice refers not only to fairness in law, but also that people are able to live the lives that God intends them to live. Jesus came to bring justice. Because of His coming, we live with the hope of a new creation in which there will be perfect justice. As citizens now of this new creation, we strive to be agents of biblical justice in our lives.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Savior of the Nations, Come” LSB 332

1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh --
Woman's offspring pure and fresh.

3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Invocation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: Today we light the second candle of the Advent wreath. The second candle is the candle of PEACE.

(The HOPE and PEACE candles are lit.)

Leader: **John 14:27** - *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Leader: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, fill us with Your peace, the peace found only in You, the peace beyond anything that this world can give, that in all the trials and difficulties of this life, we may rest secure in Your grace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

"Jesus Messiah"

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn

Chorus

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

Love so amazing love so amazing **Chorus**

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world **Chorus**

Children's Church

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name.”

¹⁰ Again, it says,
“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹ And again,
“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him.

¹² And again, Isaiah says,
“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You O Christ!

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon

“Why He Came: Justice”

Offering

Ministry Moment

Comfort Dog Ministry

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the chat.

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

St. John’s People and Families

John & Kristi Clark
Irv & Betsy Gewirz
Mark & Corrin Kornovich, Anavon and Kaden Kennedy
Tyler, Michelle, Grayson, & Austin Roberts
Tiffany Tucker, Victoria and Alexander Christie
Brian, Ameris, & Ezra Cleary
Josue, Gina, & Leilani Delgado
Kristopher, Jamie, & Meila Laratta
Alex, Katherine, Charles, & Claire Remy
Matthew, Sarah, & Harrison Tolbirt

+ The Service of Holy Communion +

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**People: 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.**

Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

People: **Amen.** *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

People: **Amen.** *(Take and drink)*

“How Deep The Father’s Love for Us”

How deep the Father's love for us	Until it was accomplished
How vast beyond all measure	His dying breath has brought me life
That He should give His only Son	I know that it is finished
To make a wretch His treasure	
How great the pain of searing loss	
The Father turns His face away	I will not boast in anything
As wounds which mar the Chosen One	No gifts no power no wisdom
Bring many sons to glory	But I will boast in Jesus Christ
	His death and resurrection
	Why should I gain from His reward
Behold the Man upon a cross	I cannot give an answer
My sin upon His shoulders	But this I know with all my heart
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice	His wounds have paid my ransom
Call out among the scoffers	
It was my sin that held Him there	

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” LSB 515

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear; The evening is advancing, And darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.	Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold; In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.
2 The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near; Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.	4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!
3 The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,	

Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

People: Amen.

Prayer

Benediction

“Prepare the Royal Highway” LSB 343

1. Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God’s Word.

2. God’s people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God’s Word.

3. Then fling the gates wide open
To greet Your promised King!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God’s Word.

4. His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God’s Word.

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John’s (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

Memory Verse for This Week

He has shown you, O man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Soren De Young & Ruth Peterson
Communion Assistants	Paula Schweiger, Anne Heine, Bob & Kari Perna
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Bill Clark
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Doris & Bob Klein
Ushers	Sal Pagano
Projection Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Children's Church	Sarah Santora, Debbie Kirkpatrick, Pam Watkins
Worship Band	Pastor Mike, Steve & Christi Jeffery, Christopher Newman

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