



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX

Second Sunday in Advent – Year A

In Person & Virtual Service

via Facebook Live, YouTube will resume next week

December 4, 2022

8:00 am & 10:00 am

Coffee Hour to follow at 11:00

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.
And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Celebrant There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came to bear witness to the coming of the light so that all might believe through him. *John 1:6-7*

As the second candle is lit, Celebrant and People pray:

O God, help us to be ready for the coming of your son, the light of the world, by making room for him in our hearts. Amen.

Processional Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #65 Prepare the way O Zion

The people standing, as are able, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Kyrie

The Hymnal 1982 S 91

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

The people sit

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

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.

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;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek 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.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not 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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 *Deus, judicium (responsively by full verse; final verse in unison)*

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;**

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!**

**19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.**

Romans 15:4-13

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. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 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 patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." 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.

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #534 God is working his purpose out

Then, all standing, as are able, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew** (3:1-12).

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 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.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,
“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not 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. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

A brief reflection follows the Sermon

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People: Form VI

The Leader and People kneel, as are able, and pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Andy, Scott, Kay, and Jeff and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

St. Luke's List is read here for Illnesses and Other Special Needs and Concerns

Silence

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
St. Luke's List of Thanksgivings, Birthdays and Anniversaries is read here

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
St. Luke's List of the deceased is read here.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People in unison

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand, as are able. The Celebrant says to the people

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

[Announcements](#)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

None this week

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering of sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

The Offertory Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #58 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

The Doxology

(sung to The Hymnal 380)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

The people remain standing, as are able. The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy , Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Then the Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Lord God of our mothers; God of Sarah, Hagar, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

*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, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Jesus said to them, "Peace I leave with you my peace I give to you."

John 14:27

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Concerning Holy Communion

*"This the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.
So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here."*



*If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.
Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.*



Communion Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 # 66 Come, thou long expected Jesus

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Priest gives the blessing

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
Whom death could not contain,
Who lives to disturb and heal us,
Bless us with power to go forth
And proclaim the Gospel. **Amen.**

~Janet Morley

Processional Hymn

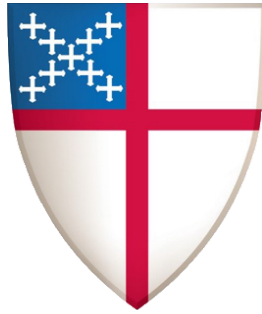
The Hymnal 1982 #616 Hail to the Lord's anointed

The Celebrant dismisses with these words

Deacon
People

Let us go forth in the name of Christ
Thanks be to God.

Thank you for taking the time to visit with us today. We feel truly blessed that you chose to be with us here at St. Luke's. It is great to have you worship with us and hope you feel truly welcomed. For our first time visitors we have a special gift to send home with you today, so as you leave church please take a gift bag with you. We welcome you back next Sunday and look forward to seeing you again soon.



From the Calendar of Saints

December 4 John of Damascus *Priest, c. 760*

Composer of several Easter hymns still sung, John wrote treatises in defense of the veneration of icons. He also refuted the Manichaean heresy that matter is essentially evil.

December 5 Clement of Alexandria *Priest, c. 210*

As an apologist for the Christian faith to both Christians and pagans, Clement dissented from the Gnostic heresy current in his era. He believed instead in free will and the accessibility of salvation to all.

December 6 Nicholas *Bishop of Myra, c. 342*

Traditional patron of seafarers and sailors, and especially of children, Nicholas became Santa Claus to Dutch colonists in New York. He suffered torture and imprisonment during the Diocletian persecution.

December 7 Ambrose *Bishop of Milan, 397*

Before he had even been baptized, Ambrose was unexpectedly nominated bishop by the acclaim of a mob he was trying to calm. He rapidly became a defender of orthodoxy against the Arian heresy, and introduced antiphonal chanting into worship.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – Rector

Staff

Duncan McMahan – Organist
Marion Cole – Altar Guild Directress
Mackenzie Campbell-Furtick – ECM Missioner
Lindsey Hughes – Parish Administrator

Vestry

Term Ending 2022 – Karl Aho, Robi Rhea & Jane Dennis
Term Ending 2023 – Jane Hickie & Suzanne Meyers
Term Ending 2024 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes

