



## Union Lutheran Church

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## 2nd Week of Advent

*A Little Child Shall Lead Them*

December 12 and 13, 2023

6:30 p.m. Tuesday Worship

10:30 a.m. Wednesday Worship

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Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

*During the prelude, the offering is collected.*

### OPENING LITANY

P Let us quiet our minds and hearts and observe a few moments of silence.

*Silence is kept for meditation, centering ourselves, and preparation for worship.*

P O Lord, open my lips,

C **And my mouth will declare your praise.** (Psalm 51)

P Make haste, O Lord, to deliver me.

C **May all who seek you rejoice and be glad.** (Psalm 70)

P Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

C **As it was in the beginning, is now and forever, world without end. Amen. Thanks be to God.**

C **The Lord of love is born on earth**

 **To rescue souls from sin.**

**His message for us to proclaim**

**Is through him we will win.**

*melody: Hark, the Glad Sound*

P The little Lord Jesus is coming with light to rid the world of the darkness of evil.

C **Our lives are brightened with his kindness and compassion.**

P All burdens that we carry are lifted up by the One who loves us to the end.

C **All glory be to Jesus Christ who stands in authority over earth and heaven in love.**

C **Throughout the land, God's love is shown.**

 **His love dwells in our hearts.**

**We nothing fear for Christ is here,  
A new life in us starts.**

*melody: Hark, the Glad Sound*


P In love, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus.

C **In love, he chooses us to answer his call.**

P Christ Jesus fills our hearts with his good news that he is almighty and everlasting.

C **Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

C **Carry with you the love of God's name**

 **And make all people know**

**That from the heart of God above**

**His grace shall overflow.**

*melody: Hark, the Glad Sound*

P In a manger bed, the love of God will rest in straw.

C **In gratitude we give to God our praise for the love that crowns us all our days.**

C **With love increase our joyful noise**

 **And multiply our peace.**

**For Christ has come, and we will be**

**Where pleasure will not cease.**

*melody: Hark, the Glad Sound*

*Light two candles on the Advent wreath.*

*Light in the Fellowship Hall is dimmed.*

*Silence is observed.*

Prayer of the Day *based on Psalm 33*

P Faithful God you are upright in every way and you love righteousness and justice. We come to you with joy, trusting in your holy name. Let your love continue to be with all people keeping our hope in you alone.

C **Amen.**

## WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne

of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### Second Lesson: James 5:7-11

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

### Holy Gospel: John 14:10-24

<sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. <sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” <sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.


### Reflection

Pastor Heidi Punt

Hymn: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* (stanzas 1, 5-6)


LBW# 23


**1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?**

 **Your people long to greet you, My hope, my heart's delight!**

**Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my brest**

**To do in spirit lowly All that may please you best.**

5 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,  
 Who mourn your joys departed And tremble at your doom.  
Despair not; he is near you, There, standing at the door.  
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.

6 He comes to judge the nations, A terror to his foes,  
 A light of consolations And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth your beams so cheering And guide us safely home.

### RESPONSIVE PRAYER

*Ask your neighbor at the table how you can pray for them and as a table pray for each other concluding the prayer time with the following response.*

L Let us gather our hearts together as one and offer our prayers to God.

L Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Christ, have mercy on us.**


L Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy.

C **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**

L O God, from you comes all efforts and all desires to do what is holy in this human life. You are the One source of anything good we might ever accomplish. Grant us your everlasting peace which cannot be obtained anywhere else but in you. Stir up our hearts so that we might be obedient disciples of your Son. Defend us from all harm, cast out fear, and protect us from our enemies, so that we may spend this night in quiet and rest. Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

C **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

P As you go from this place, remember that with God a Little Child shall lead us. May God the Father, Son,  and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)

C **Amen.**

Postlude

*Thank you for worshipping with us this week!*

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