

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Advent 2

December 4, 2022

As we continue to march on into the Advent season, our fundamental focus remains that Jesus came to establish peace between the LORD and sinners. God the Father sent His promised Messiah, His Savior-Son. Jesus redeemed us through His perfect life, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. The Holy Spirit grafted us to God's family tree in baptism and keeps us as growing branches through the means of grace.

The readings for this "Second Sunday in Advent" speak of the Savior, who comes as the "root" from the "stump of Jesse." St. Paul reiterates Isaiah's message stressing that faith in Jesus unites Jews and Gentiles into the one family tree of God. John the Baptizer warns the Pharisees and Sadducees against lifeless formalism in their religious life. The Baptizer prepares the way for the Savior, by commanding people to repent and turn to Jesus in faith for forgiveness.

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A SECOND VIOLET CANDLE...in our Advent wreath is lit reminding us that our preparation to welcome Jesus includes sincere repentance of all our sins. Traditionally, we call this candle the "Bethlehem Candle" after the place of the Savior's birth, as the prophets had foretold. May the light of this candle remind us that God never breaks His promises! What He has said will be fulfilled. As repentant sinners we are sure of His forgiveness and certain of everlasting life when this world passes away.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, **Divine Service** "Rite Two" communion.
Hymns: 110 (1,4), 106, 102, 88 (2)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-10. Isaiah prophesies of the Savior to come as stemming from the "root" of the "stump of Jesse." As "great [King] David's greater son" (Psalm 110:1), Jesus alone brings peace coming from the forgiveness of sins.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 130. In this one of the seven great penitential psalms, the writer cries out to the LORD who alone can forgive sins (CW pg.114).

Epistle: Romans 15:4-13. Paul reiterates Isaiah's message that Christians are to live in the "peace" of God's forgiveness, which motivates us in turn to live in peace, love and unity with fellow believers.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight. And everyone will see the salvation of God. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6, EHV)

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Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12. John the Baptizer prepares the way for the Savior by preaching repentance, especially against the lifeless formalism of

"religious practice" as well as family tradition of religious belief. True faith (religion) is turning from sin and demonstrating that sincere faith by continued trusting in and living for Jesus.

Sermon: Romans 15:4-13

Theme - "The Christian's Unique Advent Hope"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: Isaiah pictures the LORD's promise to send the Savior from the "root" of the "stump of Jesse." What point does the LORD point using this picture?
- Old Testament: What kind of peace will this Savior bring?
- Epistle: How are Jews and Gentiles alike and why?
- Epistle: Regardless of outward circumstances, what "fruits of faith" bud in the Christian's life because of Jesus?
- Gospel: Matthew records how John the Baptizer fulfilled Isaiah's promise of the Savior's forerunner. As that forerunner, how did John prepare his audience for Jesus' advent?
- Gospel: Regardless of Jesus' first advent—at His Bethlehem birth—or His second advent—on Judgment Day—how do we prepare to meet our Savior?
- Gospel: What is John's point, when he instructed "produce fruit in keeping with repentance?"
- Gospel: Which person of the Godhead leads people to repentance and brings them to faith? (See v. 11).

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school: 8:00 a.m.

+Confirmation Class: Monday 3:30-5:00 p.m.; Midweek Advent Service, Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

+ timeofgrace.org – a resource for timely, topical subjects answered by pastors from the Wisconsin Synod.

+ **Guests and Visitors** – We are pleased to have you worship with us today. Please sign our guest book before you leave. Our church provides a free daily devotional booklet (*Meditations*). The *Lutheran Sentinel*, a news and informational publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is also available. Please ask for a free copy.

Isaiah 11:1-10 - A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will 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. He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears, but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the

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earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death. Righteousness will be the belt around his

waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips. The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together, and a little child will lead them. The cow and the bear will graze together, and their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the cattle. The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole, and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious. (EHV™)

Romans 15:4-13 - Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name. And again it says: Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people. And again: Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples give him praise. And again Isaiah says: There will be a Root of Jesse, and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles; on him the Gentiles will place their hope. Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (EHV™)

Matthew 3:1-12 - In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!" Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight." John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! Do not think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (EHV™)

Our Mission:

**✠ Proclaim & teach to all ages God's law
and loving gospel trusting the Holy
Spirit's blessing on bringing people to
repentance & faith in Jesus Christ for life**

Our Ministry:

**✠ Worship: Sunday 9:00 a.m.
✠ Radio Broadcast: Sunday 10:00 a.m.
99.9 FM
✠ Sunday School: Sunday 8:00 a.m.**