



December 4, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Second Sunday in Advent, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, December 4th 2022
Second Sunday in Advent, Year A
Rev. Maggie Westaby

WELCOME

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Bethlehem Candle & Candle of Peace.

God of Infinite Love,

May all see the Advent Wreath as a symbol of your never-ending love. May the Wreath be a place to acknowledge the blessings you give to us; the blessings of hope, peace, joy, and love. And on this Second Sunday of Advent, we pray specifically for peace. Peace that comes as we prepare the way for the Lord. Peace that can be found even in the wilderness. Peace that Abraham found looking up at the night sky. And peace birthed from your Son into Holy Darkness.

Amen.

Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah Verse 2.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

God of new beginnings,

We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths and we forget about your peace. We hurt one another and creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit, you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Morning Has Broken

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass,
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates;
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GREETING

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

And also, with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Root of Jesse, O God of Peace,

Stir up your power within our hearts so that we may await with abundant expectation, for the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation. Allow us to feel your presence living among us. Teach us to faithfully prepare your way. Nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace. For you alone are our Creator, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The 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.

³His 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;

⁴but 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.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The 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.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

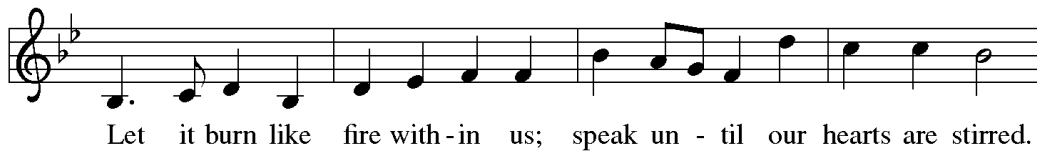
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On 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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)



GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This 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.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But 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? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even 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.

¹¹“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. ¹²His 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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone,
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism, and for the Mootz family, who are one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Today we welcome Ronnie and Emilee Mootz. As we welcome them let us confess our faith together, in the words of the Apostles' Creed...

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ ...

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Abundant God,

You make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these offerings and cultivate them into our ministry. May our offerings guide us, and inspire us to share your mercy and love for all of creation.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

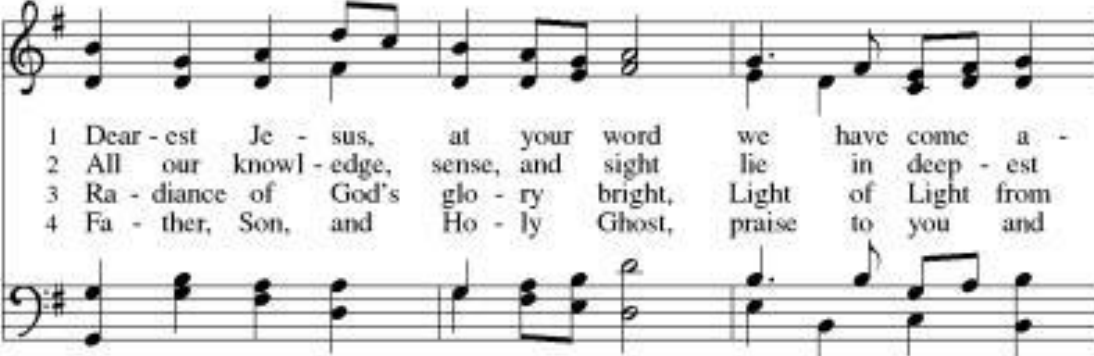
LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word




1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diancy of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Just As I Am, without One Plea

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

In this meal you shared with us 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. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Spirit of the Lord breathe in you,
Sprouting in you the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and might, and the spirit of knowledge and peace,
So that the brilliance of God can shine through your eyes,
The love of Christ can radiate through your hands,
With the Three in One ✝ leading you, in every place that you land. Amen

SENDING SONG

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Welcome to the promise of Advent: Amid barren trees, Isaiah announces spring growth — a “shoot” representing new life in Jesus (11:1).

“The Lord is coming, always coming. ... Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.”—Henri Nouwen

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John's at (715) 675-6950;

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

THANK YOU, FROM DUANE ASKEW AND FAMILY

We are humbled by the amazing out pouring of love and support the entire congregation has shown us during this difficult time. As our family grieves the loss of Patsy, all the wonderful memories, laughter and joy she provided will bring us comfort and peace. We are truly blessed to know and love her.

Thank you for every kind word, donations in her name and the support to our family during this time.

God's peace and grace,
Duane Askew and Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PIE AUCTION SUCCESS! On November 20th, St. John held its annual pie auction. We sold 25 delicious pies with plenty of generous bidders and lots of laughter and fun. We are proud to announce that we raised \$1,077.00!! All of the money will be donated to two (2) deserving local charities. Half will go to Share Your Holidays and the other half to the Wausau Warming Center. Thank you to all of the bakers and buyers for a job well done. Generosity and kindness is alive and well at St. John.

New Church Website! St. John now has a new and improved website! Check it out at stjohnausau.org Our website is a great way for non-congregation members to learn more about what it means to be a part of our St. John community. Please extend a HUGE thank you to Jayne Rowe, Ann Lyon-Ohrmundt, Shelley Kufahl, Lorie Anderson, Kim Landwehr, Mary Anderson, and Pastor Maggie Westaby, who all spent countless hours learning about web page design and how to develop and maintain the new webpage.

Monday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club will discuss the book, *Everything Happens for A Reason, And Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler.

Saturday, December 10th at 9:00 a.m. We will be decorating the church and the tree. Everyone is welcome to help as we beautify our sanctuary for Christmas. No need to reply, but if you have questions, please call or email Sue Harris.

Monday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m. This service is prayerfully cultivated for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time, and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. All are welcome.

Tuesday, December 13th at 5:30 p.m. at Carmelo's. Sisterhood Christmas Gathering. Happy Hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. Per tradition, the evening will end with a white elephant exchange. Donations for the Women's Community will also be collected. Please sign up in the narthex to help us plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions, contact Brooke Schindler or Kelly Rosenau.

****Christmas Program & Fun Holiday Events!****

Sunday, December 4th and Sunday, December 11th at 10:15 a.m. Christmas Program Practice during normal Sunday School hours.

Saturday, December 17th 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m. Christmas Program Dress-Rehearsal.

Sunday, December 18th at 10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program & Worship Service. Invite your friends and family to attend and enjoy this St. John tradition! All are welcome for fellowship after! Please have children arrive to church at 9:40am that day to get into costume.

Thursday, December 22nd at 5:30 p.m. 'The Star' Pizza & Pajama Party. St. John members of all ages are welcome to attend this fun event! Come and watch the cartoon movie 'The Star' about the night Jesus was born. Enjoy pizza for dinner and make a star ornament! Wear your PJs and bring something comfy to snuggle with! Kids are welcome to bring friends if they'd like! **Pizza at 5:30pm. Movie 6:30pm-8pm.**

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John December 4 – December 11

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School – Christmas Program Practice
12:00 p.m. Visitation for Vernon Bahr
2:30 p.m. Funeral for Vernon Bahr, followed by burial, followed by fellowship
Evening Community Supper

December 5

6:30 p.m. Pr. Maggie's Book Club

December 6

8:30 a.m. Quilting
9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

December 7

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

December 10

9:00 a.m. Christmas Decorating

December 11

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School – Christmas Program Practice