

**+FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH +**  
**Member of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**  
**4<sup>th</sup> & North Washington Street**  
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**ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE**  
***“The Saints of Advent: St. Nicholas”***  
December 5, 2018

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**HYMN SING**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**AS WE GATHER**

We as Lutheran Christians do not talk a lot about saints. But over the next two midweek Advent services we are going to be looking at two real live saints of Advent who lived and breathed and were and are examples and encouragements to us as God’s people, as we live out our lives of faith. Tonight, we learn about Saint Nicholas!

**✘ PREPARATION ✘**

**HYMN** *“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”*

*Hymn # 348*

**ADVENT ANTIPHONS**

**Pastor:** O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

**People:** **Come and teach us Your ways.**

**Pastor:** O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

**People:** **Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

**Pastor:** O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:

**People:** **Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

**Pastor:** Come, O Lord, among us.

**People:** **Jesus, our Wisdom from on high. Alleluia! Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

**Pastor:** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**People:** **the light no darkness can overcome.**

**Pastor:** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

**People:** **and the day is almost over.**

**Pastor:** Let Your light scatter the darkness

**People:** **and illumine Your Church.**

**CANTICLE** *“My Soul Rejoices”*

*Hymn # 933*

## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT *LSB, p. 245*

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## FIRST READING Amos 5:14-15

<sup>14</sup>Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. <sup>15</sup>Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect....<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

*Hymn # 411*

## SERMON *The Saints of Advent: Saint Nicholas*

*Pastor Volk*

## CATECHISM *Second Article of the Apostles' Creed*

Pastor: We speak the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning from Luther's Small Catechism:

**People: And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

**People:** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## OFFERING

### LITANY

*LSB, p. 249*

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**People: Alleluia.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

Pastor: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**People: Amen.**

## **COLLECT FOR PEACE**

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*Inside back cover of hymnal*)

## **BENEDICAMUS**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN**

*"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"*

*Hymn # 350*

## **EXTINGUISHING CANDLES AND SILENT PRAYER**

## **POSTLUDE**

**Those serving the Lord and us tonight:**

**Liturgist: Reverend Karl P. Ziegler**

**Preacher: Reverend Michael Volk**

**Elder: Kyle Baardson**

**Acolytes: Paige Fritz and Landon McConnell**

**Organist: Mr. Dave Ricke**