

**Midweek Advent 2**  
**Wednesday, December 7, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.**



**Welcome!**

**To our guests and visitors:**

We are glad that you are here with us today!  
If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. We hail thee as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
Without thy grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.
3. Lay on the sick thy healing hand  
and make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of thy face  
till beauty springs in ev'ry place.
4. All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore. Amen

## The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: Amen.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: We light the second candle on the Advent wreath to celebrate the renewal of our lives through faith in Christ Jesus. The apostle Paul writes, "We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

C: **Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You were born among us to bring us new life.**

- P: “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” (Romans 12:2).
- C: **Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Renew our hearts and minds in the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might serve you by serving others.**

## **The Confession and Absolution**

- P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.
- C: **Almighty God, we confess to you that we do not always live in the newness of life that is ours in Jesus. We fall back into our selfish ways. We do not love others as we should. Instead of following your will, we seek to conform our lives to the world’s temptations. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Renew and restore us.**
- P: God had mercy on us and sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus took our sins onto himself and suffered and died on the cross for us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- C: **Amen. Help us, Lord, to live in newness of life. Lead us to seek your will so that we might do what is good, acceptable and perfect in your sight.**

## **Hymn                      O Little Town of Bethlehem                      LSB 361**

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

## **The Prayer of the Day**

- P: Almighty God, when the time was right, you fulfilled your promise and sent your Son to be our Savior. Even his holy name—Jesus—means that he came to save his people from their sins. Through faith in our crucified and risen Lord, we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life. We are buried with him in Baptism and raised to walk with him in newness of life. Help us, in that new life, to walk in love as Jesus did and to serve you by serving others. When we grow faint and weary in our walk of faith, lift us up and renew our strength in the power of the Holy Spirit. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus’ name.
- C: **Amen.**

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**The Old Testament Reading****Isaiah 40:21-31**

Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall

exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **The Epistle Reading**

### **Ephesians 1:7-10**

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Reading**

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Sermon Hymn O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee**

**LSB 334**

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
2. I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.  
A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

## **The Sermon**

## **Be Born in Us Today Bringing Renewal**

## **The Hymn of Response O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee**

**LSB 334**

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, cannot his love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.  
He comes, for you procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing eternal life in heav'n.

## The Offering

## The Prayers

P: Lord and Savior, hear our prayers on behalf of those who are suffering through illness or enduring grief and loss. Renew and strengthen them in faith through the promises of your holy Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: **Be born in us today. Lead us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to serve one another in love and to bring comfort and hope to those in need.**

P: Lord and Savior, in Baptism we were united to you in your death, buried with you and raised to new life. Through faith in your name, we have forgiveness and eternal life. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: **Be born in us today. Conform our hearts and minds to your will so that by our thoughts, words and actions we glorify your holy name.**

P: Lord and Savior, you are ever watchful and caring, and you are present with us at all times. When we grow faint and weary in faith, forgive us and renew us according to the promises of your Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: **Be born in us today. Refresh us through your forgiveness and strengthen our faith so that we might serve others in love.**

P: Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise.

C: **Amen.**

## The 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**

## The Benediction

- P: “Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
C: **They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:30-31).**  
P: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).  
C: **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn      **Renew Me, O Eternal Light**      **LSB 704**

1. Renew me, O eternal Light, and let my heart and soul be bright,  
Illumined with the light of grace that issues from your holy face.
2. Create in me a new heart, Lord, that gladly I obey your Word.  
Let what you will be my desire, and with new life my soul inspire.
3. Grant that I only you may love and seek those things which are above  
Till I behold you face to face, O Light eternal, through your grace.