



The Lutheran Church *of* Vestavia Hills
Second Advent MidWeek Service
“Worthy is the Lamb: The Lamb Who Is”
December 7, 2022

The season of Advent prepares us for the coming of Christ. As we journey through this Advent season, we will also use the church tradition of Visio Divina. The practice of Visio Divina, "divine seeing" in Latin, invites us to remember and reflect on God's work through the use of visual art. The psalmist David invites us to take moments of reflection to ponder not how God fits into our story, but instead how we fit into the heavenly story of redemption that God has been writing since the beginning.

My soul will be satisfied...and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

Psalms 63:5-7.

We often use words as a way to connect with ideas, but we can also use imagery as well. Before the sermon each week, there will be an image for you to reflect on. Spend some time with the image. A great question when it comes to art is "what does this mean?" An even better question is "what does this image reveal about God?"

As you look at the sermon image, wonder:

-What stands out the most to you in this image?

-If you could give this art a title, what would it be?

-How could we use this image and our words to talk with someone who loves us—a friend, someone in your family, or God?

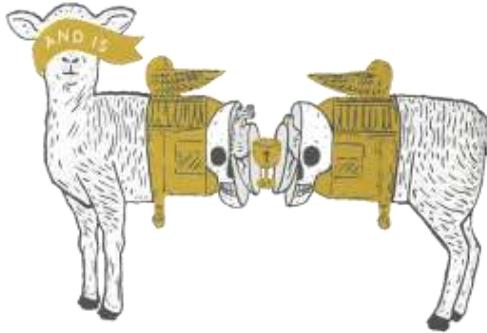
This Advent series is titled "Worthy is the Lamb," and at first glance, that may strike you as a Lenten theme. What does the Lamb of God have to do with Advent? The seasons of Advent and Lent are both penitential seasons which the Church uses to prepare for the coming of Christ. In Lent we prepare for Jesus' death and resurrection; in Advent we focus on Jesus' birth. And in both seasons, we anxiously await that day where Jesus will return to reign over all creation.

I invite you to think about how John the Baptist focuses on Jesus coming into the world. Why does it matter for you that Jesus is coming?

May our coming Lord bless your Advent reflection and preparation in this season.

-Vicar Andrew

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CALL TO WORSHIP

John the Baptist, the herald of our Lord Jesus Christ, prepares us for this Advent season

I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of world!

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of world!

and the crooked places shall become straight, and the rough places shall
become level ways.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of world!

I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God,

Who was and who is and who is to come. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"The Advent of Our King"

LSB #331 (v. 1-3)



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him-self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ and in him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve him.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, your mercies are new each day. When we awake and when we sleep, you give us life through the simple gift of breathing. Teach us to number our days, to remember your promises, and to give you thanks for the breaths we take. We ask this in your most holy name.

Amen.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB #357 (v. 3-4)



3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's



Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,



In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and 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 of his waist,

and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,

and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf 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 cobra,

and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy

in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MAGNIFICAT

"My Soul Rejoices"

LSB #933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

GOSPEL READING

John 1:14-18

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

This is the name by which he will be called: the Lord Is Our Righteousness.

He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

This is the name by which he will be called: the Lord Is Our Righteousness.

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

This is the name by which he will be called: the Lord Is Our Righteousness.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

LSB #332 (v. 1-4)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



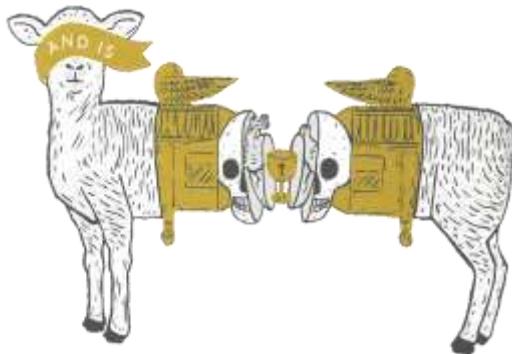
here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

SERMON

"Take a Deep Breath"
Vicar Andrew Frerichs



OFFERING

We invite you to give your offerings and gifts of love in the plates by the door as you exit.

LITANY AND PRAYER

~LSB #265

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

The congregation responds to each petition with:

Lord, have mercy.

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.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

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.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

LSB #341 (v. 1-2,5)



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Be - hold, the
2 A righte - ous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

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 Web Site: www.vestavialutheran.org
 WORSHIP: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays
 SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15 a.m.
 Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday



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TO OUR GUESTS: We offer you a warm welcome in the name of Jesus. Please sign the Friendship Register. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to have you become a part of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the Pastor about membership in our congregation. If you do have a church home, we pray that God will bless you as you continue your growth in faith and love.



SUNDAY SCHOOL Adult Bible Classes meets in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. Children, Confirmation, and Youth classes also meet at 9:15 a.m. in the class rooms downstairs.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH and NURSERY Following the Children's Message, all children ages 3-7 are invited to Children's Church downstairs. They will return to the sanctuary after the sermon. A nursery attendant is provided for children ages birth to 3 years during our 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services.



COMMUNION We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us at the Communion table. The practice of our congregation is to place the bread into the extended hand of the communicant. The wine is offered in individual cups; please take one from the tray as it is offered by the Elder. The common cup will be offered to those who do not take an individual cup. The cups in the center of the tray are filled with non-alcoholic wine, in consideration of persons who should not drink wine. Also, children who have not received Communion instruction are invited to come to the Communion rail, fold their hands and receive a blessing.