

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

**THEME:** The most powerful gift you can give someone, is yourself. Nobody modeled this more than Jesus.

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING SONG "Green Book" 30

#### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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.

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.

### OPENING BLESSING

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

**C: Amen!**

### WE CONFESS OUR SINS...

P: Before we continue in our worship and praise, it is fitting for us to admit to God and each other our sinfulness, especially our failure to live our lives with the newness God has given us. Too concerned about our past and the challenges of the future, we have indeed failed to recognize the newness God gives to us each day. During this time of silence we reflect upon the times we have failed to reflect God's light to the world.

*(Silence for personal reflection)*

**C: Gracious God, we come to you in worship because we want to give thanks and praise to you, and to hear your good word of hope and promise. But we gather with the very clear awareness of being sinners in serious need of your grace. We have sinned in our thoughts, our words, our actions. We admit that we have not always kept our priorities in order. We have valued our selfish desires over spiritual values. Forgive us, Lord, and help us by your Spirit to put our spiritual life first, following you as our Savior and Lord.**

### ...HEARING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son for us, and for his sake forgives all our sins. As a servant of God's Word and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### SONG OF PRAISE "Red Book" 195 (twice through)

Spirit of the Living God

**Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us all pray together these words:

**C: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

#### The First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-7b

*A messenger is promised who will prepare the way of the Lord.*

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

[The Second Lesson: Philippians 1:2-11](#)

*Paul expresses thanks to the Philippians for their partnership.*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

[CHOIR ANTHEM](#)

[Christmas is Coming](#)

[By Joel Raney](#)

[The Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:1-14](#)

John the Baptist prepares the way of the Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG "Red Book" 249

We Have Come Into His House

We have come into His house gathered In His name to worship Him  
We have come into His house gathered In His name to worship Him  
We have come into His house gathered In His name to worship Christ the Lord,  
Worship Him, Christ, the Lord

So Let's lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him  
So Let's lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him  
So Let's lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him  
And Worship Him, Christ, the Lord

So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him  
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him  
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him  
And Worship Him, Christ, the Lord

He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him, and worship Him  
He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him, and worship Him  
He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him, and worship Him  
And Worship Him, Christ, the Lord

SERMON "Spend Less"

Pastor Lucke

## AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

**C: We believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
And born of the virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The Christian Church  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen**

## OFFERINGS

We give our offerings as signs of our lives offered to God in humble thanks and service.

### OFFERING SONG "Green Book" 410

We Give Thee but Thine Own

**We give Thee but thine own.....whate'er the gift may be,  
All that we have is thine alone.....a trust O Lord from thee.**

**May we thy bounties thus.....as stewards true receive,  
And gladly, as thou blesses us.....to thee our first fruits give.**

## THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(after each prayer)

P: Lord in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

## THE INVITATION

P: Welcome to the celebration! God who supplies our every need has given us this meal to share.

**C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.**

P: We come to the table, acknowledging our shortcomings and our need to experience Your presence in bread and wine.

**C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### DISTRIBUTION

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS & Music

"Red Book" 246

What a Friend

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations, is there trouble any where?

We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful who with all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Saviour, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;

In his arms he'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

“Red Book” 108

I’ve Got Peace Like a River

I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a  
River, I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.

I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a  
River, I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean, I’ve got love like an  
Ocean, I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean, I’ve got love like an  
Ocean, I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.

I’ve got joy like a fountain, I’ve got joy like a  
Fountain, I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I’ve got joy like a fountain, I’ve got joy like a  
Fountain, I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul.

#### [CLOSING BLESSING](#)

#### DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

#### POST-SERVICE MUSIC