

THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Tempe

DECEMBER 7th, 2022

12:00 p.m. & 7:00pm



Be Born In Us: Bringing Guidance

AS WE GATHER

In this service in our Be Born in Us Today series for Advent, we remember that we have a clear path to the promised land of heaven through him who is the Way. Jesus is the Way. And he is born in us today.

THEME VERSE

For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me. Psalm 31:3

PRELUDE

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

PASTORAL WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you hear our prayers; even as we remember your son being born among us with great might, and in manger mild. Today we ask that we might once again recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him. Amen.

OPENING HYMN “Arise, O Christian People” LSB Hymn # 354, St. 1-4

- 1 Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.**
- 2 Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav’nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.**
- 3 The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God’s invitation
And makes true preparation—It is the Lord’s delight.**
- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You This blessed Adventide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I’ll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.**

INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P We light the second candle on the Advent wreath as a bright light that reminds us of the guidance we have in God's Word and in our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh. The prophet Isaiah spoke of a highway prepared by God, the Way of holiness: "The redeemed shall walk there" (Isaiah 35:8-9).

C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You were born to redeem us. Through faith in your name we walk the Way of holiness.

P Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You alone are the way of salvation. In the power of the Spirit, guide us according to the truth of your Word.

The first two candles are lit as we sing.

HYMN OF WREATH LIGHTING. "Light One Candle" by Natalie Sleeth.

**1 Light one candle for Hope, one bright candle for Hope,
He brings Hope to every heart. He comes! He comes!**

**2 Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to every heart, He comes! He comes!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, you have given us the Way to follow, our Savior Jesus Christ. You have given us your Word to teach us the Way of salvation and to guide us in lives of service to you. We confess that we often turn away from that guidance and follow our own sinful, selfish ways. We listen to the temptations of the world instead of keeping your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P In mercy, God sent his Son into the world to be our Savior. Jesus took our sins onto himself and carried them to the cross, where he suffered the penalty of death in our place. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **Lord God, guide our feet in the way of peace!**

HYMN OF ABSOLUTION “O Little Town Of Bethlehem” **LSB #361 V1**

1 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!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, you have given us the gift of your holy Word. In its sacred pages we learn of your mighty acts of power and your promise of the Messiah as proclaimed through the prophets. In the written Word we see that promise fulfilled in the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. As we follow our Lord in faith, we find comfort, hope and guidance through the Holy Scriptures. Help us by your Spirit to grow stronger in faith as we read and study the Scriptures to learn all that you have done for us. Guide us according to your will. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name. Amen.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:5-10

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 31:1-5

P In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me!

C Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!

P For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

C you take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

P Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord,
faithful God.

**C Glory be to the Father, and to the † Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P For you are my rock and my fortress;

C And for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 2:14-17

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC (7 p.m.)

“Mary, Did You Know” -Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

Gospel Refrain (*Sing*)

“Soon and Very Soon”

**C Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:67-79

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has visited and redeemed his people
69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
71 that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
72 to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us[a] from on high
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Hark the Glad Sound” **LSB Hymn #349, St. 1-4**

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne And ev’ry voice a song.**
- 2 He comes the pris’ners to release, In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.**
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.**
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.**

SERMON

For Your Sake

Palm 31:1-5

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Create in Me” LBS #192

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take
not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy
salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** Lord and Savior, hear our prayers on behalf of those who are suffering from illness and loss and for those who are struggling in their relationship with you and with others. Lead them to search the Scriptures for the comfort and guidance that you alone can give.
Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C Be born in us today. Strengthen us through the study of your
Word so that we, in turn, may give strength and hope to others.**
- P** Lord and Savior, in the Scriptures we read the words of the prophet

Isaiah, who foretold that God would establish a Way of holiness, a place for the redeemed to walk. Through faith in your name, we walk that holy Way with joy! Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Guide our feet in the way of peace!

P Lord and Savior, you announced that you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. You are the Way of holiness proclaimed by the prophet. You alone are the Way to the Father. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Grant us grace to follow you each day. In you alone we have forgiveness, life and salvation. Lead us by the power of the Holy Spirit as we seek the guidance of your holy Word.

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

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

C 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.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

P “And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness ...

C The redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads” (Isaiah 35:8-10).

P “May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all” (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” LSB #358, St. 1, 6-7

- 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev’ry home; Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:**
- 6 How glad we’ll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go To see that God for us has done In sending us His own Son.**
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies, Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.**

POSTLUDE

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| Midweek Advent 2 Worship** | Dec. 7, 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. |
| Third Sunday in Advent (Casual Service) | Dec. 11, 10 a.m. |
| Midweek Advent 3 Worship** | Dec. 14, 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. |
| Fourth Sunday in Advent w/Holy Communion | Dec. 18, 10:00 a.m. |
| Christmas Eve Worship | Dec. 24, 7 p.m. & 11 p.m. |
| Christmas Day Worship w/Holy Communion | Dec.25, 10:00 a.m. |

POSTLUDE

“Come, We That Love the World”

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
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SERVING US AT WORSHIP TODAY:

Officiant Preacher:

Rev. Tim Anderson

Organist/Director:

Ellen Brown

Song Leader / Special Music (7 p.m.):

Charles Haynes

Pianist (7 p.m.):

Glenn Brown