

# Big Grove Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312

320-254-3249

[bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com](mailto:bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com)

**December 8, 2024**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

*Welcome in Jesus' name.*

*We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.*



Lead Pastor Lisa Meshke, [pastorlisaanne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaanne@gmail.com)

Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson, [bhandeljohnson@gmail.com](mailto:bhandeljohnson@gmail.com)

## Prelude/Procession/Bell

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Lighting of Advent Candle

L: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. (*Light the first candle.*)

We light this candle for peace. (*Light the second candle.*)

Hear Zechariah's song of hope for peace to the Christ child. A reading from Luke 1:76-79:

"You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Let us pray:

God of hope, Prince of Peace, You speak peace into the world in the Way of the Christ child. Help us embody your peace and live as peacemakers that we may called children of God. **God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come.**

**Hymn:** "He Came Down" ELW #253 v.2 (sing twice)

#### \*Confession and Forgiveness:

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn:** “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ELW #249

**\*Apostolic Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie:** Setting 4, ELW, page 147-148

**\*Hymn of Praise:** “This is the Feast” Setting 4, ELW, page 149-150

**\*Prayer of the Day:**

Stir up your power, Lord God, **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>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 washers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Psalm Reading:**

**Luke 1:68-79**

L: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**C: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David.**

L: As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

**C: That we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

L: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,

**C: the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us**

L: that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

**C: in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.**

L: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

**C: to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

L: Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**C: to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

**Scripture Reading:**

**Philippians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God for every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy <sup>5</sup>for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Sermon**

**\*Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" ELW, Setting 4, Page 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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**\*Holy Gospel:**

**Luke 3:1-6**

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill

shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' ”

L: The Gospel of our Lord.     **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**\*Sermon**

**\*Hymn:**

“All Earth is Hopeful”

WOV #629

**\*Apostles' Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**\*Prayers of the People:**

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**\*Peace:**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

**\*Offertory Hymn:**

“We are an Offering”

ELW #692

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.**

**\*Benediction:**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn:**

“Love Divine”

WOV #631

**\*Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C: Thanks be to God.**