

**Second Sunday of Advent  
Holy Communion ELW Setting Three  
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church  
December 10, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God,  
**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**  
**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness**  
**that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**  
**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**  
**We choose comfort over courage.**  
**We are careless with creation's bounty.**  
**Look upon us with mercy.**  
**Turn our hearts again to you.**  
**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways**  
**for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:  
God clothes you with garments of salvation  
and covers you with robes of righteousness.  
In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
God's covenant is eternal,  
and God's blessing rests upon us all.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

*(ELW 255)*

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: 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 *In peace...* (ELW P.138)

ADVENT WREATH VERSE  
*Come, Thou-Long Expected Jesus* (ELW 254, vs 1)

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

*Use this blessing when lighting two candles.*

**L:** Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.  
You fasten righteousness around your waist  
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

**A: We light a candle in the darkness, O Lord, but our hearts long for You.**

**L:** Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,  
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.  
We ask that peace abound,  
until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray... Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

READINGS **Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia* (ELW P.142)

GOSPEL **Mark 1:1-8**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON Longing for the Light: Preparing Adam Berndt

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Earth Is Hopeful

(ELW 266)

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 INTERCESSION ( *Merciful God ... **receive our prayer.***  )

PEACE     The peace of Christ be with you always.  
              **And also with you.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

**MEAL**

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (ELW 184)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Assisting:** God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

*Holy...*

*ELW p. 144*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.  
Come, take your place at the table.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

<i>Lamb of God</i>	(ELW 146)
<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs 1,3, 4, 6, 8</i>	(ELW 257)
<i>Wait for the Lord</i>	(ELW 262)

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting: Let us pray... Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer for Peace...O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great Love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows and give peace to your church, Peace among nations ... Peace in our homes, and Peace in our hearts, through your son Jesus, Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.** (ELW p76)

## SENDING HYMN

<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	(ELW 631)
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## DISMISSAL

Assisting: Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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## SERVING TODAY

**Presiding Minister**  
**Assisting Minister**  
**Lector**  
**Communion server**  
**Director of Music Ministry**  
**Accompanist**

Pr. Adam Berndt  
Duane Meneely  
Diane Carrico  
Nicole Bencomo  
Thomas Ropp  
Amy Ellis