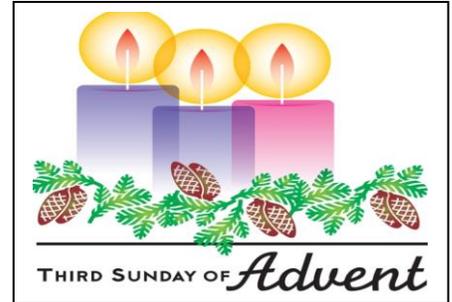


Perley Lutheran Parish
December 12, 2021
3rd Sunday in Advent



*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. Isaiah 11:1*

Gathering Hymn: Holy Child within a Manger

Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
so we see in every stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
So we see in ev'ry stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live in you,
That our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

For centuries, the church has used through Advent a series of antiphons, or responses, to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's birth. These seven responses, names and titles for our Savior, are often called the "O Antiphons," familiar to us in the hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." We light the third candle on the Advent wreath in praise to Christ, who is the Root of Jesse and the Son of David. The Lord said to David, "I will raise up your offspring after you ... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

C The prophet Isaiah said, "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

C The Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:1-2).

P O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you.

C Come, Lord Jesus, Root of Jesse, Son of David, and rule over us as our King.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

This morning we light three candles – the candles of hope, peace and today, joy. This candle reminds us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Christ’s birth as “Good news of great joy, to all people.” We celebrate today with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading that joy to the world around us.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel

Confession and Absolution

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

C Almighty God, you kept your promise to send forth a Son of David, a shoot from the stump of Jesse, to save us. You keep your promises, but we do not keep ours. Although we promise to remain faithful to you, we often turn against your will to follow our own sinful desires. We listen to the tempting voices of the world around us instead of listening to your Word. We sin against you every day in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

P God in his mercy sent forth his Son to be our Savior. Born into the royal line of David, Jesus laid down his life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He was raised in glory and now rules over us as our King. 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 Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, lead us to live as your redeemed people and citizens of your kingdom.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you promised David, the son of Jesse, that one of his descendants would reign forever. When the right time came, you fulfilled your promise and a living shoot grew from the stump of Jesse; a branch sprang up from his roots. Jesus our Lord was rightly called the Son of David. He is the royal Son, the promised King, who rules over our lives now and for all eternity. By the power of your Spirit, make us willing servants and subjects of our King. Lead us to walk in love as Jesus walked, to be witnesses for him and to welcome

others into his kingdom so that they too might worship him as King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

Old Testament Reading, Isaiah 11:1-6

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And 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. And 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, but 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. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The 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.

Epistle Reading, Romans 15:8-9, 12-13

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ... And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading, Matthew 1:18-25 Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Children's Message - family tree chart

I like to share pictures of my family and tell people about my parents and grandparents and great-grandparents (*share photographs or family tree*). When Jesus was growing up, he probably learned about his family tree, about Mary and Joseph and their parents and grandparents, and, of course, Jesus knew all about God, his heavenly Father!

Jesus had a very important person in his family tree. Jesus was descended from Israel's great King David. That means Jesus was a great-great-great—many greats!—grandson of King David. When Jesus grew up and was teaching and healing, many people called out to him using the name "Son of David." King David's father was named Jesse. Long ago the prophet Isaiah said that "a shoot from the stump of Jesse" would grow and "a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." When Jesus was born, there were no kings of Israel. The royal family tree of David and Jesse was like a ruined stump. But God promised that a new, living branch would grow from that ruined stump, and that new living branch of the family tree is Jesus!

Jesus is our King. He is the King of kings and when we are baptized, we are adopted into the family of God. We become part of Jesus' family; we are his brothers and sisters! Jesus, the descendant of Jesse and King David, is our Brother, and he came to be our Savior. When you tell people about your family, remember to tell them about Jesus, your Brother and King! Let's pray:

Jesus, thank you for coming to be our Brother and Savior. Help us to live as loving and caring members of your family. Amen.

Message: Come, O Root of Jesse

The people of Israel were once ruled by God through his appointed prophets and judges. But finally, there came a time when Israel wanted an earthly king, a flesh and blood king, just like the kings of other nations. Samuel had been leading Israel as its judge, but as he aged, he made his sons judges. The sons ended up seeking their own good and their own profit. So at that point, the people demanded a king. Through Samuel, his judge and prophet, God warned the people: Having a king is not going to be what you think. A king will take your sons and daughters into his service. He will take your crops and livestock for himself. You will be slaves!

Yet still the people demanded a king, so God gave them a king—Saul. For a while, things went well, but in time, Saul disobeyed the Lord and the kingdom was torn from his hand. His own son would not follow him as king. Instead God gave Israel a new

king, a shepherd boy named David, the youngest son of his family. Anointed by Samuel to be king, David first served in Saul's house, led troops in battle and eventually came to wear the crown. God gave David, his chosen king, rest from his enemies and promised that one day one of his descendants, a Son of David, would rule over the house of Israel forever.

David's son Solomon would not be that forever king. Solomon was great and wise, and so wealthy that, during his reign, silver was said to be as common in Jerusalem as stone—everything Solomon had was gold. He built the beautiful temple in Jerusalem that housed the ark of God. Although ruling well at first, Solomon strayed from his faith and began to follow the false gods of his many wives. Solomon's son Rehoboam ruled as a tyrant, and under his reign, Israel was split into two kingdoms, Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

Although some kings of David's royal line were faithful, others were not, and they led the people into idol worship. In time, Israel and Judah fell to their enemies and the people were taken away into exile. The family tree of Jesse, the royal line of David, was nothing more than a ruined stump.

But in the midst of ruin and exile, God, through the prophet Isaiah, gives his people a word of hope. A living shoot, a growing, fruit-bearing branch will grow from the ruined stump of Jesse. God's Spirit will rest on this new and fruitful Son. He, unlike Saul and other kings, will rule justly in righteousness. This living, fruitful king will uphold the meek and oppressed and—with a breath—destroy the wicked.

Like the people of Israel, we often go our own ways and reject the rule of God in our lives. We don't usually demand a king to reign over us. Instead we want to rule our own lives, to hold sovereign power over our own decisions. We do not want the will and Word of God to rule us. We may not seek other kings, but we seek and bow down to other gods—wealth, possessions, popularity, influence and power. Israel wanted to be like other nations; we may not want to be like those of the world around us. We listen to the tempting voices we hear. But God's merciful promise to Israel is a promise for us too. Advent is a season of preparation, but it is also a season of repentance. We acknowledge our sin and our need of the promised Savior, the fruitful Branch who was born among us in Bethlehem.

The living Branch of Jesse, who is also the Root of Jesse, his source of life, is our source of life too. The righteous Branch of David's family tree will bring hope and salvation to Israel and not only to Israel, but to all nations, to the Gentiles, those who are not descended from Abraham. The living Branch brings hope to you and me. As the apostle Paul wrote: "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the

Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

The season of Advent is about hope, and about hope fulfilled. The living Branch of David's family tree is named in Scripture, "The Lord is our righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:14-16). We know him better by the name given to Mary and Joseph by the angels, a name that means "God saves": "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Amen.

Hymn of the Day/Offering: 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 every nation, joy of every 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.

Offering Response: We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be. All that we have is ours alone, a trust O Lord in thee.

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers: (P: King of kings and Lord of lords, **C: Hear our prayers and accept our praise.**)

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide their work to lead and love. King of kings and Lord of lords, **Hear our prayers and accept our praise**

Almighty God and Father, in mercy you promised to send your people a new king, a righteous king, the shoot from the stump of Jesse's ruined family tree. We give you praise and thanks for Jesus, the righteous Branch, the descendant of David's royal line. Jesus, that righteous Branch, born in Bethlehem, is King of kings, and he is our

King too. As we prepare during this Advent season to celebrate his birth, lead us to true repentance. Fill us with the joy and hope that can only come through knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord. Hear our prayer in his holy name. King of kings and Lord of lords, **Hear our prayers and accept our praise**

Nurturing God, you come near us in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned or ill this day. Today we especially lift up Tom and Chris, Roger and Sonya, Kirk and Daniel, Terry and Marlis, Whitney and Jaime, Anne and Brent, Lynn and those we now name silently in our hearts grant them healing and wholeness. King of kings and Lord of lords, **Hear our prayers and accept our praise**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Meal

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

C: In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for remembrance of me.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

C: Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

C: all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

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. 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

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

After Communion Prayer:

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

Blessing: (sung)

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace
Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen

Sending Bell

Sending Hymn: Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Dismissal: Go in peace, Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, December 19th – 9am at Kirkebo

11am – Children's Christmas Program at Nora, with potluck

Friday, December 24th – 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Nora

Sunday, December 26th – No Services

Service adapted from *O Come Emmanuel Series* written by Carol Geisler. © 2020 Creative Communications for the Parish. All rights reserved.

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