

Perley Lutheran Parish

December 5, 2021
2nd Sunday in Advent



In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. Colossians 1:19

Opening Hymn: Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
Foretold in sacred story;

Chorus

Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's Word!

His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness to abounding: Chorus

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

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

P 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 second candle on the Advent wreath in praise to Christ, who is our Lord and God, who once spoke to Moses from the burning bush on Sinai: "I have surely seen the affliction of my people ... and I have come down to deliver them' ... Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel ... and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?'

C God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM ... Say to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'' (Exodus 3:7-14).

P O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush,

who gave him the holy law on Mount Sinai.

C In Jesus our Savior you stretched out your mighty hand to set us free.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

This morning we light two candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This candle reminds us that Christ came into our world to restore peace, and that is only through trust in God's word and his promises that we can find our own inner peace. We remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace who taught us that through the simple acts of love and forgiveness peace is spread throughout the world.

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 and Lord, you have set us free from our slavery to sin, yet so often we run right back into sin's embrace. We enslave ourselves to the temptations of the devil, the world and our own sinful desires. We pray that you would forgive our sins and set us free to live as your redeemed people.

P God is I AM, the God who sets people free. Through the death and resurrection of his Son, he reached out to set you free from sin, death and the devil. 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 Holy Lord, great I AM, you have stretched out your mighty hand and set us free!

Prayer of the Day

P **Lord Jesus, our I AM, by your birth, life, death and resurrection you have set us free from slavery to sin, death and the devil. As we prepare to celebrate your birth and look forward to your Second Coming, help us to live as your free people and as your willing servants, devoting ourselves to acts of love and service. We pray that those who see your love reflected in our lives will give all glory and honor to your holy name. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading, Exodus 3:2-6, 13-15

P The angel of the Lord appeared to [Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God ... Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."

Epistle Reading, Colossians 1:15-20

P He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Gospel Reading, Luke 1:26-38

P In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For

nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children’s Message - *two small signs - “I AM,” and “LORD”*

P Long ago, a man named Moses was watching his sheep on a mountainside. On the mountain, Moses saw a bush that was burning, but the flames were not burning up the bush. So he went to take a closer look. God called to Moses out of the burning bush. At that time God’s people, the people of Israel, were slaves in Egypt. God was going to free his people and Moses would lead them out of Egypt. Moses said, “The people will want to know the name of the God who is saving them. What is your name?” God said, “My name is I AM WHO I AM. Tell the people that I AM is setting them free.” (*Hold up the I AM sign.*) That is God’s name, I AM. He set his people free from slavery.

Since God’s name is so holy and wonderful, sometimes people did not want to write it down. When they wrote down the words of the Bible, in place of God’s name, I AM, they wrote the word “LORD” instead. In our Bible you will see that word LORD spelled with all capital letters (*Hold up the LORD sign.*)

When Jesus lived on earth, he sometimes used the words I AM to talk about himself. Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd” and “I am the Light of the world” and “I am the Bread of life.” Jesus is God. He is I AM. He is LORD. He is I AM, the Son of God who set us free from sin and death and the devil! Jesus is I AM, our LORD who set us free! Let’s pray:

Jesus, you are I AM, the God who set us free from sin and death. You are our Lord and King. Amen.

Message

P We love the name of Jesus, but do you have favorites among the other many titles and names for Jesus? Those names are scattered throughout Scripture. We use them in prayer and in hymns, and during Advent and Christmas we hear many of them: Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Son of David, King of kings, Messiah, the Christ. Each of these wonderful titles and names carries its own meaning and promise. Each conveys in a different way the comfort or hope found in our Savior.

Jesus often referred to himself as the Son of Man, a title taken from the prophet Daniel, who saw in a vision “one like a son of man” coming with the clouds and presented

before God to receive “dominion and glory and a kingdom” (Daniel 7:13-14). More than once Jesus used descriptive names or titles for himself to illustrate his relationship to us and to the world. He is the true Vine, he was the Door of the sheep and the Good Shepherd. He is the Bread of life and the Light of the world. Each of these titles was preceded by the introduction, “I am.” “I am the true vine,” “I am the door of the sheep,” “I am the good shepherd,” “I am the bread of life,” “I am the light of the world.”

Then Jesus identified himself with the most astonishing name of all. He announced that those who kept his word would not see death. His opponents responded, “Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died?” Surely, they thought, Jesus could not be greater than the ancient patriarch Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. Abraham had lived centuries before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Then Jesus, who was a young man, claimed to have been known and seen by Abraham himself. His opponents could not accept that! But then Jesus claimed as his own the holiest name of all. Jesus announced, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” At that, the Jews picked up stones to throw at him. They knew he was claiming to be I AM, and they rejected him as their Lord.

Jesus was identifying himself as “I AM,” the God of Israel, the God who spoke to Moses from the burning bush. Long before, centuries before, the people of Israel were enslaved in Egypt. When God chose to act and set them free, he called out from a burning bush to an exiled shepherd named Moses. Moses, born a Hebrew slave but raised as a prince of Egypt, a murderer and a fugitive from Pharaoh’s justice, was chosen by God to lead Israel out of slavery into freedom. With mighty acts of judgment and power, God would free his people and set them on the way to the promised land. Moses knew that the people would want to know the name of the God who acted on their behalf. After all, the Egyptians had many gods and goddesses, all with names no doubt familiar to the Israelites. Did the God of Israel have a name?

So Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God is I AM. Unlike the false gods of Egypt, I AM is real. He is the one true God. He exists. It is the name we sometimes translate today as Yahweh. It was a name so sacred to the Jews that they would not dare pronounce it aloud or write it down as they copied the sacred Scriptures. Instead they would write in that space the word Adonai, or Lord. It was a name so sacred it could not be pronounced, and that is the name Jesus claims as his own: “I AM.”

The prophet Isaiah had said of the promised one who was to come, “Behold your

God!" The angel had announced to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God." The apostle John wrote of Jesus, the Word made flesh, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The apostle Paul would say of Jesus, "In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell."

God, who is I AM, who spoke to Moses and who thundered from Mt. Sinai with a voice so terrifying that the Israelites did not want to hear it again, cried from a manger bed. This child, born in Bethlehem, is I AM, the God of Israel. But we do not need to be afraid of him, because many years later that same voice cried out from a cross, "It is finished." This Jesus, whose birth we will soon celebrate, suffered and died and conquered death to deliver us from slavery to sin and death. This child in the manger is I AM, the God who set Israel free, the God who sets us free. Amen.

Hymn of the Day/Offering: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.

To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

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.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. God and Savior, your voice thundered from Sinai with terrifying power and cried in weakness from a manger bed and a cross. As we prepare to celebrate your birth, lead us by your Spirit to walk in love as you walked among us. Help us to listen to your voice as it speaks to us in your holy Word. Guide us each day so that we might grow in faith toward you and in love toward others. Make us bold witnesses to your saving actions so that others will come to know and worship you as Lord. King of kings and Lord of lords, **Hear our prayers and accept our praise**

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely or ill. 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**

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in your and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. 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 Song: Hark the Glad Sound!
Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;

let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim,
and Heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

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

Mark Your Calendars:

Monday, December 6th – Nora Council at 6:30pm

Sunday, December 12th – 9am Service at Kirkebo with Council following.

10am Sunday School and 11am Service at Nora.

Confirmation at 11:45 at Kirkebo

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