



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

*With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
We carry light and love to the world.*

*Sunday, December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent*



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent
Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

The Liturgy is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

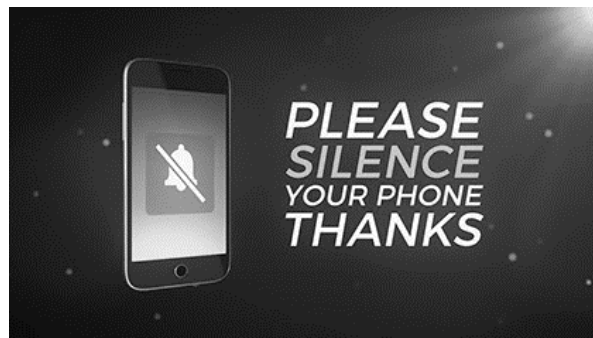
Are you hearing impaired? If you are having difficulty hearing are worship service, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.

Today's worship service is being live-streamed beginning at 9:25am and will be replayed next Sunday at 6pm on FM radio station 102.9. The service is available to view anytime on the home page of our website www.nlcww.org.

In-person attendance for last Sunday: 108

On-line views: 63

Thanksgiving Service: 86



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES

Indicates the start of worship.

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Mark Hayes



THE GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us
together as the people of God.

SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent comes from the Latin word ‘adventus’ meaning ‘coming.’ Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century. Advent is a time for preparing for Christ’s second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. Blue is associated with Advent, suggesting hope. This association originated in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use.

Please stand as you are able and turn toward the baptismal font.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

Each day God brings to us new opportunities to learn and grow.

God is near to all of us.

We will not fear to call upon the Lord.

Come, let us praise God who walks with us daily.

Let us open our hearts and spirits to God who loves and lives with us. AMEN.

Please look toward the cross as it processes toward the altar.

GATHERING HYMN

On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry

249

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

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.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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. 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.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Second Candle – The Candle of Peace

When Jesus came, he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us, he brings us peace, and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

ADVENT CANDLE HYMN *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
240, vv. 1 & 2

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

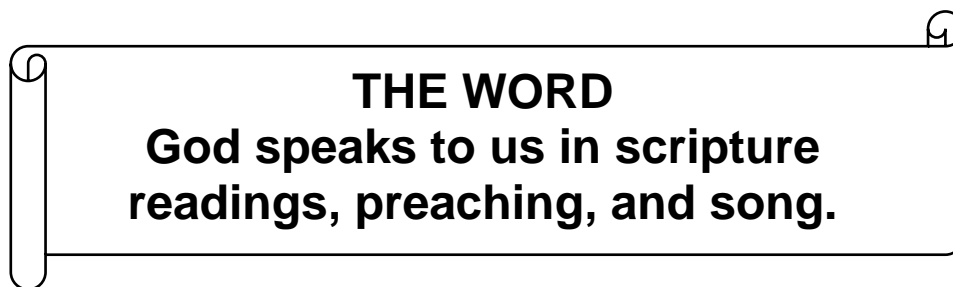
Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.



SPECIAL MUSIC *Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?* Robert Lau
Soloist: June Heinecke

**A READING FROM THE BOOK
OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH**

11:1-10

Reader: Susan Nordstrom

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We

have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (*see insert*)

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark, the Glad Sound!

239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Remain standing or sit as you desire.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

After each petition: God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, You know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.



OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the basket by the exit door or at the office during the week. You may also donate on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org>, or on our Facebook page.

Assisting Minister unveils the chalice and paten.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, **You make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to You, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 the remembrance of me.

Let us pray the prayer Christ himself taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Please be seated. Please follow the instructions of the ushers as you come forward. Please let an usher know if you cannot come to the altar to receive communion. We will have communion brought to you.

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

272, 244, 250, 251, 260

Please stand as you are able.

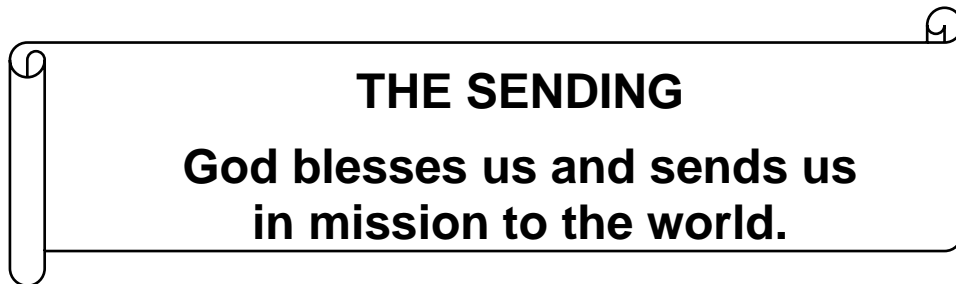
TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this meal You have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



THE SENDING

**God blesses us and sends us
in mission to the world.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION MINISTERS

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As You sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick and homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Prepare the Royal Highway


264



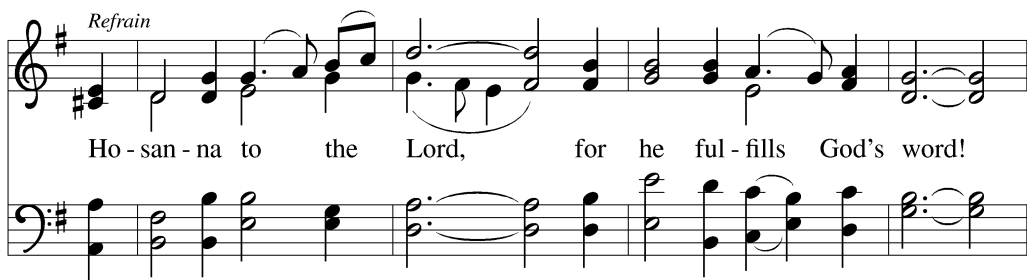
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts we carry light and love to the world.

DISMISSAL

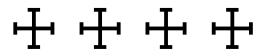
Go in peace! Christ is near!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Lo, He Comes

Robert J. Powell



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm: 146:5-10
James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11

PRAYERS: *The list will be cleared every other week. If you wish to remain on the list for longer than two weeks, please call the office and request a long-term prayer. In case of emergency, contact the office at 352-597-1456 and leave a detailed message. Messages are checked daily.*

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Frank Alessio, Tracey Baker, Baynon family, Windy and Bill Binns, Linda Borowski's family, Tammy Bunge, Agnes Burkart, Joyce Colombo, Woody and Joan Cornetta, Tim Cotter III, Michelle Clancy, Denise Crawford, Judy Dietz, Ruth Edwards, Irene Froehlich, Rich Geiser, Addy Hackl, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Kay Hill, Don Hoy, Brian Johnson, June Johnston, Pam

and John Kennedy, Alfred Korndoerfer, Buddy Kristoferson, Lofgren family, Ned Long, Carl Lundh, Elaine Malone, Rich and Sharelle Miller, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Sheryl O'Conner, Oliver family, Reeder family, Cheri Riveria, TC Schuttler, Barbara Strohl, Jeannie T., Umbaugh family, Lorraine & Vinnie Vadala, West family, Janet Wilkens, Roger & Jane Zimany, Laoretta Z.

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Areil Dietz-US Army, Tyler A. Germann-US Air Force, Robert M. Heinecke-2nd Lt USMC, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Cpt. Will Lawlor, Zachary McGuire, CTT2 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, William Robishaw, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, LCpl Erich Timm, Kesley Underwood, Kyle Underwood, Chad Waldorf.



Flowers on the altar are given by:

June Heinecke

In loving memory of Bob and John.

Altar Flowers: *If you would like to order flowers in honor or in memory of someone, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can call the office at 352-597-1456. Donation is \$25.00. Flowers can be picked up after the 9:30AM Sunday service, or you can schedule a pick-up time with the office if you are not attending service.*

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Assisting Minister	Deacon Charlotte Downing
Scripture Reader	Susan Nordstrom
Ushers	Claude Major & Robert Rios
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Bell Choir Directors	Janet & Todd Holly
Altar Guild	Suzanne Chelf & Pat Squires
Greeter	Evelyn Galli
Sanctuary	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
AV Director	Art Alt
Audio	Guy Peeters, Tim Noe & Pat Squires
Cameras	Tim Cotter, Buddy Kristoferson & Mark Major
Graphics	Diane Alt, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
Video Production	Vicki Page
Head counter this week	Ernie Horeis

MISSION STATEMENT

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
we carry light and love to the world.

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a Fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ.

In this fellowship, there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). We, therefore, welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE A CONGREGATION OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Phone (352) 597-1456

Email: Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com, Website: nlcww.org

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Clyde Rosten

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m.