

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Abound in Hope  
December 7 & 8, 2013

### AS WE GATHER

At this point in December, you have probably heard the song “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” a number of times already. This cheery song was written in 1963 and popularized by singer Andy Williams. The song praises this time of year saying “it’s the most wonderful time of the year” and “it’s the hap-happiest season of all!” But, ironically, as the radio plays songs of wonder and happiness, there are many who feel hopelessness. For some, the anticipation of Christmas this year may not seem all that happy because of sickness or grief or a broken family. Yet in today’s Epistle text, the apostle Paul writes of the hope that Scripture brings as it points us to the coming Christ. This hope that our Savior gives does not change with the time of year or season, but it is yours now and forever. So, we can sing any time of year,

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. *LSB 575, 576:1*

### WELCOME

**“The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”**  
Revelation 7:17

### FELLOWSHIP GREETING

+ PREPARATION +

### OPENING HYMN #575 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

*Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev’ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain*

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the wilderness

**People: prepare the way of the LORD;**

Pastor: make straight in the desert

**People: a highway for our God.**

### LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

### SONG

**“Light One Candle”**

AGPS 163

Light one candle for hope. One bright candle for hope,  
He brings hope to ev’ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,  
He brings peace to ev’ry heart, He comes! He comes!

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### CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Almighty God, heavenly Father, when John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness, he proclaimed, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”. We humbly ask, O Lord, that you would work repentance in our hearts today. With sorrow over our sin, we ask that you grant us your Holy Spirit that we may turn from the sin that hinders your kingdom from coming. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: “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.” Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: O Lord our God, your written Word gives us endurance and encouragement for our time of waiting and preparation. Grant that we may also look to the Word made flesh so that we abound in hope through His life lived and given for us; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**5:00 BAPTISM** of Alexander James Heiden

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**10:30 BAPTISM** of Makenna Marie Wroblewski

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***Please refrain from taking photos during the worship service***

### + WORD +

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 11:1–10 (*A shoot from the stump of Jesse*) A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the need, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

**EPISTLE** Romans 15:4–13 (*Christ came for hope*) For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name.” Again, it says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples.” And again, Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## 5:00 ANTHEM

*"Ready or Not, Here HE Comes!"*

*Children’s Choir*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 3:1–12 (*John the Baptist prepares the way*) In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff and unquenchable fire.”

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**SERMON HYMN #344** “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *Rise for last stanza*

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flowers that wither and decay.

Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in every place.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

## SERMON

***“The Way Prepared”***

Matthew 3:1-12

(Rise)

**8:00 NICENE CREED** *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, please **sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Lord, your prophet John the Baptist prepared the way for your Son by preaching repentance.

**People: Grant to us a repentant faith, that for the sake of Jesus Christ, we might be saved from your righteous wrath over our sins and prepared to receive the advent of your Son today in His Holy Supper.**

Pastor: O Lord, the preaching of repentance and forgiveness from the mouth of John the Baptist continues today in the Preaching Office, which you have created so that we might receive saving faith in you.

**People: Give courage to pastors as they boldly proclaim repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to your holy people.**

Pastor: O Lord, grant to your people endurance and encouragement, that in their everyday callings they might live in such harmony with one another that together we glorify you in our work.

**People: Bless those vocations you have especially established to provide for us, including spouses and parents, children and teachers, workers and employers, that all people might learn the value of honest labor and give thanks to you for their daily bread.**

Pastor: O Lord, you have promised that the Shoot from the stump of Jesse, your Son, Jesus Christ, would judge the poor with righteousness and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. Hear our intercessions for the poor and meek, the sick and suffering, the aged and infirm, and all who have requested our prayers, especially Don, Dorothy, Leona, Dorothy, Bob, June, Jerry, Dolores, Eugene, Eleanor, Lorina, Jean, Sarah and Joe.

**People: Grant them healing, hope and courage. According to your good pleasure, grant them comfort and peace through faith in Christ.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we rejoice in the promise of forgiveness and new life given us in the waters of Holy Baptism. We give thanks to you that this

weekend Alexander, Makenna, and Bronx receive this gracious gift and are made members of Christ's eternal kingdom.

**People: Grant them to grow with us in the grace and knowledge of Jesus as both our Savior and our Lord.**

Pastor: O Lord, on the day of your Son's second advent, He will gather the remnants from all peoples and lands, raising the dead and giving eternal life to all believers in Him. Until then, bless your Church both in heaven and on earth, that she might ever praise and glorify you.

**People: We give you thanks for those who have preceded us in the faith and in death. Comfort those who miss loved ones at this special time of year especially the Bergstrom family as they remember Howie and the Kaltenbrun family as they grieve the passing of Harold. Give us grace to face death with the word of faith upon our lips and confidence in Jesus in our hearts.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### **8:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

### **WORDS OF OUR LORD**

#### **THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

#### **HYMN #547**

#### **"The Lamb"**

Stanzas 1 & 2

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

*Refrain      Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. *Refrain*

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

**HYMN #347 “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”**

“Comfort, comfort ye My people, Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over.”

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many a day, Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.

Hark, the herald’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord Now o’er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token That His Word is never broken.

**HYMN #610 “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”**

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle’s strife;  
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

**HYMN #570 “Just As I Am, Without One Plea”**

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have given us a  
hope, not from ourselves, but from you, in the body and blood of your  
Son. Having received forgiveness, strengthen us to share the hope of  
Christ with the world; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #333 “Once He Came in Blessing”**

Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

Soon will come that hour When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You Till in heav’n we bless You.

