

**Old Testament**

**Isaiah 11:1-10 NIV** A Shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 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 – 3 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; 4 but with righteousness He will judge the needy, 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. 5 Righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist. 6 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. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. 9 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. 10 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.

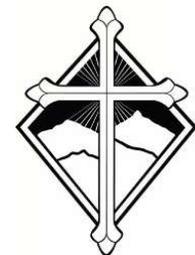
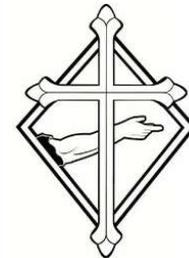
**Epistle**

**Romans 15:4-13** For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and he encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8 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 9 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." 10 Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people." 11 And again, "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to Him, all you peoples." 12 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." 13 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.

**3-Year- A Gospel**

**Matthew 3:1-12** In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." 3 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.'" 4 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. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 7 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? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 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. 10 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. 11 "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. 12 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 with unquenchable fire."



**OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL**

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BIBLE CLASS 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 11:15 AM

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Advent-2A Watch Signs/J.B.**

**WELCOME to Our Savior!** We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **The LORD bless you.**

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** On gold liturgy sheets and in (red) TLH.ymnal p.5

Opening Hymn	(v)	
Hymn of the Day	(v)	
Offertory Verse/s	(v)	
Third Hymn	(v)	
Closing Hymn	(v)	

**Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday  
 I Ch.17:1-27 II Ch.7:11-22 Isaiah11:1-10 Jer. 23:2-8 Jer. 30:1-22 Jer.33:14-26  
 Act17:16-34 I John 4:9-16 Coloss. 1:1-8 Phi.2:12-18 Phi. 3:12-16 Col. 3:1-11

**PROPERs for ADVENT-2 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the New Church Year) Watch Signs/J.B. DEC 8<sup>th</sup>**

**INTROIT** Daughter of Zion, surely your Salvation is coming. The LORD will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and you will have gladness of heart. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock. Stir up Your Strength, and come and save us! ...from Psalm 80

**COLLECT** Stir up our hearts, O LORD, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, so that by His coming we may worship You with pure minds; through the Same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, Who lives and reign with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. C: ♪ A - - men.

**GRADUAL C:** Alleluia! From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes and will not be silent. Gather My saints to Me, those who have a covenant with Me by sacrifice. Alleluia! Alleluia! The powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Alleluia! ...from Psalm 50:1-5

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** (printed on outside back page of bulletin)

O.T. **Isaiah 11:1-10** A Shoot of Jesse's stem will come, judge, & deliver.  
 Epi. **Romans 15:4-13** All that was written in the past points to Christ.  
 Gos. **Matthew 3:1-12** John the Baptist preaches a message of "Repent"!

**Psalm 25 REFRAIN: To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

**Refrain C:** ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.

Verse 1. ♪ Lord, \_ Make me know Your ways, Teach me Your paths, And keep me in the way of Your truth, \_ For You are God, my Saviour.

**Refrain C:** ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.

Verse 2. ♪ For- the-Lord is good and righteous, \_ Revealing His way, To those who seek Him, \_ Gently leading the poor, and the humble.

**Refrain C:** ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.

Verse 3. ♪ To-the-ones who seek the Lord, \_ Who look to His Word, Who live in His Love, \_ He-will-always be near; He will show them His mercy.

**Refrain C:** ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Joe Thacker	(Bev Foster)	Joe had health issues in MI. We're happy they're back
Jim Vanesky & Delores Platt		Jim and Delores both homebound, both rehab
Dave Wiesenauer (Pat)		Dave had major surgery. Rehabbing at home
Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters		Bev Foster & Joe Thacker
Treaters		

Statistics	Last week	Year To Date / Avg.
Sunday, Attendance (Communion)	--/ (--)	18 / 15
Bible Class Attendance: Sunday	-	-
Sunday Offering (Needed) & YTD	\$. (\$1.3K)	YTD \$, /\$58.6K

Calendar of Events		
Today December 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	BibleStudy Messiah/I AM: The Yeast
Second Sunday of Advent & New Year	10:00 am	Divine Worship (NO Communion)
	11:15 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!
Wednesday, 12/11	4:30 pm	Midweek Advent-2 Vespers-Mark Wold
Thursday, 12/12	1:30 pm	OSL DEC Council meeting at church
Saturday, 12/14	10, 11 am	OSLadies DEC meeting, then Brunch
Sunday, 12/15	9:00 am	BibleStudy Messiah/I AM: Hidden \$\$\$\$
Third Sunday of Advent & New Year	10:00 am	Divine Worship (WITH Communion)
	11:15 ff...	"FFF" = Food, Fun & Fellowship ...Stay!

Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892.

**OSL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK:**

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- ✘
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This Wednesday: 11<sup>th</sup> Advent-2W TLH Hymns: \_\_ \_\_ Magni. \_\_

Next Sunday: 12/15 Advent-3/A (L.S. p. 15) Hymns: \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_

**ADVENT-2/A Matthew 3:1-12 "PREP THE WAY OF THE LORD!" 12.08.19 OSL**

**INTRODUCTION** You know it's Advent when John the Baptizer makes his appearance in the lectionary. It just isn't Advent without this strange preacher of the Judean wilderness. His message can be summarized in a single word: **REPENT!** The reason is simple and straightforward: **the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.**

John was a prophetic voice. Isaiah foretold him. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" John was the road leveler, the bulldozer. John was a raging bull in a religious China shop. Dressed as an Old Testament prophet, looking like **Elijah**. A cloak of scratchy camel's hair. A locust leg stuck between his teeth. His hands sticky with wild honey, his arms maybe dotted with bee stings (if you could see through the hair). A wild, unkempt, untamable man, not a company man or what we call today a "team player." Rather, John was a prophet sent by God to Israel **for a purpose - to prepare** the way for Christ. John came **out of the wilderness** to call Israel **back to** the wilderness, back to the place where they were first formed as a nation, back to the Jordan that had parted under their feet as they crossed into the promised land.

John was a **bridge between the "Old and the New,"** between the Old covenant **of Abraham and Sinai**, and the New covenant about to come in **Jesus**. John had one foot in the old covenant and one foot in the new. He brought a **new sacrament** of the covenant - **Baptism**, a washing with water for repentance and the forgiveness of sins. That's how John prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah. He heard your confession and baptized you. That was how you heeded the call to repent - you confessed your sins and you were baptized by John.

In the old covenant, you confessed your sins to the priests and brought your sacrificial animal who shed his blood in your place. John brought a **new** way - a washing with water and the promise of God to forgive. The people flocked to John from **all over Jerusalem and Judea and the whole region around the Jordan**. (Some OR members come from long-distance...)

John drew the attention also, for good or bad, of the religious authorities - the **Pharisees** and the **Sadducees**. He was especially hard on the religious types, those who thought they were "in" because they kept the Torah and could claim Abraham as their father. They were interested in John's Baptism, but **not** in his call to repentance. They didn't need to repent, or so they thought. They were the religious leaders, the keepers of the Torah, the pure and holy. Not like all those sinners flocking around John. But John would have none of it. He minced no words; he didn't care if anyone was "offended." He called them a "brood of vipers," a bunch of snakes. He urged them to repent not only with their lips but also with their lives, bearing fruit in keeping with repentance.

What would John say to us here today? What would John say if he stood in this pulpit and preached to you? First, you'd have to get past his looks and probably his smell. But you'd listen, I'm sure. And what you'd hear is the call to repent, to be changed in your mind, literally to drop dead to your self and your sin and rise out of Baptism a new man, a new woman in Christ. John would say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." He would urge the unbaptized to Baptism, and the baptized to confession.

If anyone (of you) started waving their credentials about how they've been a Lutheran all their lives or gave their heart to Jesus last year or did this, that, or another thing, **John would say**, "*Repent, you bunch of snakes.*" If you started to brag about **your works** and all the progress you think you're making in walking the walk, John would say, "*Not good enough. Repent.*" He would call us to repent of our comfortable complacency, our convenient religion, our "what's the least I have to do" mentality, our religious pride, all the ways we poke at the speck in eyes of others and neglect the two by four sticking out of our own eyes. John would remind us of the urgency of the end times, how the axe is already laid to root, how fruitless trees are cut down and burned in the fire.

If you wanted to know what the fruits of repentance looked like, John would tell you. If you have two coats, share one with someone who doesn't have one. If you have more food than you need, share it with those who are hungry. He would point to the ten commandments and say, "This is what the fruit of repentance looks like. To fear, love, and trust in God, to honor His name and His Word in worship, to honor parents and authorities, to help your neighbor in his physical needs, to live sexually pure lives, to help your neighbor protect his property and reputation, and to be content with what you have.

But John would remind you that these are the fruits of repentance, what happens when the Word of God has its way with you. They are not repentance. Repentance is confessing your sin, no matter how "good" you think you are, admitting that even your best works are shot through with sin and covered with the greasy fingerprints of the old Adam in you. John would turn you from yourself to Jesus. You must decrease, Jesus must increase. Jesus is the one to watch for, hope for, wait for, expect. His is the death that can save you. His is the life that brings you perfection and holiness before God. He is the Lamb of God who takes away your sin and the sin of the world. Trust Jesus, not yourself.

John would **remind you of your Baptism**. He was, after all, John the Baptizer. He would remind you that you are privileged to have received the greater Baptism from the greater One. You have been baptized into the death of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God. Having been baptized, you are clothed with Jesus, with His seamless robe of righteousness. Not the camel hair of the wilderness, but a garment of perfection that cover all of your sin

and its shame and wraps you in a wedding suit for an endless wedding party of the Lamb in His kingdom.

Your wilderness food is **not locusts and wild honey**, but **living Bread** come from heaven to feed you with **His own Body**. **Wine** from heaven your drink, the **life's Blood of Jesus** who died for you and was raised that you might live in Him and He in you. The **Lord's Supper** is your "wilderness food" that will keep you as the manna kept the Israelites until the day you set foot in the promised land of resurrection and life.

(SUMMARY) John would warn us that the winnowing fork stands ready in Jesus hand - **the Cross that winnows** faith and unbelief, ready to gather the faithful wheat into His barn and pitch the unbelieving chaff into eternal fire. John would remind us that we may never presume in smug security, but must cling in repentant faith to the promise of mercy in Jesus every day of our lives. **As Luther said** it in the first of his 95 theses, "*When our Lord Jesus Christ said Repent, He willed the entire life of the Christian to be one of repentance.*" Constantly and continually using Jesus as our **Mediator** and **Redeemer**.

You wouldn't like John terribly, (and, you know what?)...John wouldn't **terribly much care** about that. But you would **be thankful for him**. And that's what God would have us hear - the truth. The awful truth that we are always in need of repentance because we are at our heart and core sinners. And the awe-full truth that the axe of God's judgment was laid on the Shoot from the stump of Jesse. Jesus, the fruitful Branch of David's family tree, was treated as a fruitless tree, cut down and cursed on the tree of the Cross, thrown into the fire of God's wrath against your sin in order to save you from the coming wrath at the end.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION You and I as the Church of God are that prophetic voice calling in the wilderness today. The church is John the Baptizer of the end times, urging people to repentance and Baptism, preparing the way for the Lord's final advent in glory. To the world, our being clothed with Jesus' righteousness may seem as strange as camel's hair and leather. The Lord's Supper of Christ's Body and Blood, our wilderness food, may as well be locusts and wild honey to those accustomed to a more civilized diet of vague spirituality and sweet sentimentality. As Christians, we are as strange to this world as John the Baptizer was to his day.

The message to the world is the same as John's - **Repent, Be Baptized, Believe** - for the Kingdom of Heaven is near. The Kingdom of Heaven is coming, where wolf and lamb, leopard and goat, cow and bear, the carnivore and the herbivore live together without killing each other, where a tiny child is safe playing with the cobra. It is the peaceable coming Kingdom of King David's greater Son, the Branch of Jesse's root, our Savior Jesus. *Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight. The Kingdom is near. Christ is near. IJN, Amen. SDG*

**Possible Prayer of Church for Second Sunday of Advent - December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
*Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and might be to our God forever and ever.*

*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible brief silence)*

For the whole Church of Christ, and especially our own Synod, that amid the tumult and trouble of these times, we would be a people with uplifted heads and hearts, looking for the day of our redemption, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our nation and armed forces, and for all the nations of the world, that those entrusted with positions of public service might serve honorably and well for the benefit of others, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our parish, that in the Word of Christ that does not pass away, we would find the strength to endure whatever trials our Lord sees fit to send us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all the schools of the Church, and for all our baptized children, that our young people may constantly be nurtured in the hope of our redemption at Christ's appearing, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who are ill or in need, the sick, the imprisoned, the lonely and the grieving, and for all whom we have been asked to remember at this altar, [*especially* **OSL Prayers**]

<b>Jeanette Ammann</b>	(Donna's daughter) Health. Pray for healing and peace
<b>Rex Headapohl</b>	(Carol) Rex fell, bump on head, is recovering at home
<b>Elma &amp; Jim Hendricks</b>	E&J's health and Elma's brother and sister-in-law
<b>Linda Kryszak</b>	Linda's ongoing health. Plus stress of selling house
<b>Dee Kurczewski</b>	(David) Dee's ongoing health. Dee at home. David helps
<b>Richard Lininger</b>	(Janice' Uncle) Passed away. Comfort for family
<b>Mary, Pam &amp; Karen</b>	Friends & family of DonnaM, all battling health issues
<b>Vivian Temple</b>	(Tom) Vivian showing improvement at home. Tom helping
<b>Janice Thomas</b>	Janice had round two of six chemos Tuesday. Strength
<b>James &amp; Delores Vanesky</b>	Jim is back at home. Also pray for Delores' health
<b>Steve Wendt</b>	(Ethel) Had a safe trip, but Steve fell, bumped and bruised

that they be given patience to endure and hope for the future, looking always for healing in the hands of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who approach the Lord's table today, that in the Savior's true body and blood, they may experience His peace and joy and be strengthened in their hope, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us remember with thanksgiving the blessed Virgin Mary; St. Joseph, her husband; St. John the Baptist; St. Peter; St. Paul; and all the faithful gone before us, asking God to give us grace that we may join them in the feast that never ends, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen. Then, Lord's Prayer, p.14**