

Advent 2

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

It is easy to lose heart and abandon our hope when life becomes challenging. The reality of this struggle is that we try to do it all on our own, failing to rely on Jesus our Lord and Savior. Faith is a matter of putting our complete trust in the one who calls us his own and who began a good work in us in the first place. Turning from our self-sufficiency toward relying on Christ is repentance that leads to real life.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-7b **God’s Messenger is Coming**
God promised his people that he would send a messenger to them. This one would come suddenly amongst them and his power in their lives would be like a refiner’s fire. He will purify their lives and they will bring righteous offerings to the Lord. Those who have been oppressed will be redeemed. God is steadfast and faithful.

Psalm 66:1-12 **God’s Works are Wonderful**
The psalmist encouraged the congregation to sing praises to the Lord whose deeds are awesome and whose rule is eternal. He watches over the nations and keeps the people’s enemies at bay. He is the Lord who brought Israel out of the raging sea. They walked on dry ground and their feet were kept from falling.

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:2-11 **God is Faithful to Complete His Good Work**
St. Paul gave thanks for the Christians in Philippi and proclaimed that God, who began a good work in them would be faithful to complete that work. Their witness to the gospel was an inspiration to Paul and he held them in high esteem. He prayed that they would be filled with the fruit of righteousness for the sake of Christ.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:1-14 (15-20) **John the Baptist Calls People to Repent**
In a particular moment in history, John the Baptizer called people to repent and prepare for the coming Messiah. “Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire,” John warned. He then baptized many and gave them instructions on how to walk the path of God’s righteousness.

- Suggestions for the Day:**
- Liturgical Color: Blue or Purple
 - Use the Kyrie in the Season of Advent.
 - Use the Nicene Creed during this time of waiting and watching for the return of Christ.
 - Light the second candle on the Advent wreath. See the seasonal planning page for optional candle prayers.
 - Tomorrow is St. Nicholas Day. Consider presenting the Bishop of Myra to the children of the congregation, either in Sunday worship or Sunday School. Focus on the faith of Nicholas and how he gave to the poor in the name of Christ.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry	36	---	344	249	101	101
Prepare the Royal Highway	26	---	343	264	102	102
We Sing of Christ Our King	---	---	---	---	---	web
Heaven Comes Near for All Today	---	---	---	---	---	web
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel	34	---	357	257	103	103
My Lord, What a Morning	---	627	---	438	---	---
Will You Come and Follow Me	---	---	---	778	---	---
Sent Forth By God’s Blessings	221	---	643	547	58	58
Break Now the Bread of Life	235	---	---	515	85	85

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles:**
- Even So, Come (CCLI# 7036288)
 - He Who is to Come (CCLI# 7228694)
 - Emmanuel Come (CCLI# 7002441)
 - Prepare the Way (CCLI# 4455347)
 - Prepare Him Room (CCLI# 7100645)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.