

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 | 9:30AM HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING TWO, GOSPEL/JAZZ

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

The assembly stands as able.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. In the name of the Father, and of the \oplus Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly stands as they are able. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ‡ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen**

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

The presiding minister leads the blessing of the Advent wreath.

Let us pray.

O faithful and loving God, we praise you for your tender compassion and give you thanks for your steadfast love for us and all creation. Bless us who see the light of this wreath, that we may be strengthened by the hope of your advent among us, and live toward the completion of all things in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 240) (verse 1, 2)



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise. He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead home-ward. them Lift lift high the gate-way for the King your heads and of glo - ry. He com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights shin - ing! be

Gathering Song: People, Look East (ELW 248)



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
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GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The assistant minister leads the prayer of the day. Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Romans 15:4-13

The reading may be announced: A reading from Romans.

4 Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors 9 and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

10 and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

11 and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him";

12 and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

in him the gentiles shall hope."

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



The reading may be concluded: The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

The psalm for the day is spoken in unison.

- 1 Give the king your jus- | tice, O God, and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- 2 that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;
- 3 that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the | hills, in righteousness.
- 4 Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R
- 5 May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure, from one generation | to another.
- 6 Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field, like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
- 7 In his time may the | righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- 18 Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel; you alone do | wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be your glorious | name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. R

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The presiding minister announces the gospel.

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

- 1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
- 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This 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."
- 4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.
- 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do 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. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
- 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His 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 concludes: The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

APOSTLE'S CREED (ELW p. 127)

The assembly stands as they are able. The assistant minister leads the Apostle's 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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (*especially*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith (*especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today*). Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,

hear our prayer.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION

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

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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.

PREFACE (ELW p. 130)

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:

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

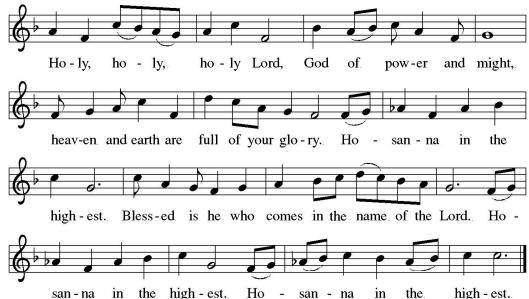
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:

Sanctus "Holy, holy, holy..."



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW P. 134)

The presiding minister may introduce 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

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

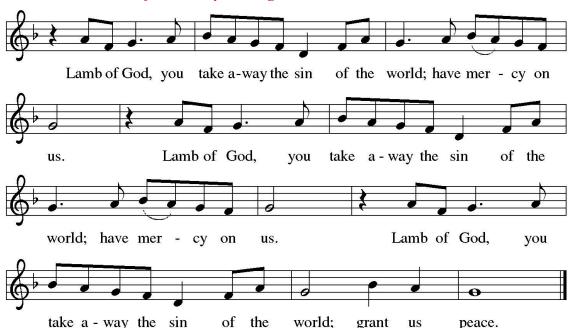
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**.

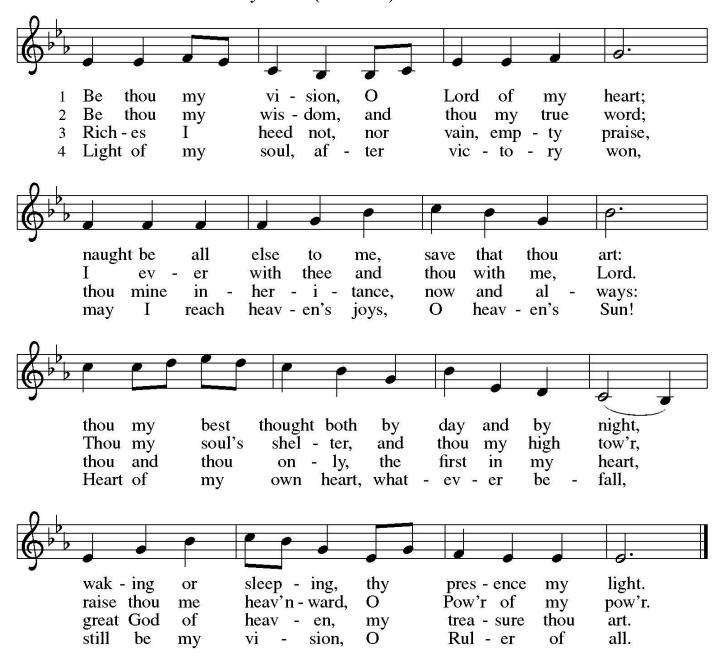
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

At this time, the assembly may commune receiving the communion sacrament(s).

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God" may be sung.



COMMUNION SONG: Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthens you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads a similar prayer after communion. Let us pray.



God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen

The assembly is seated after the prayer concludes.

SENDING

BLESSING

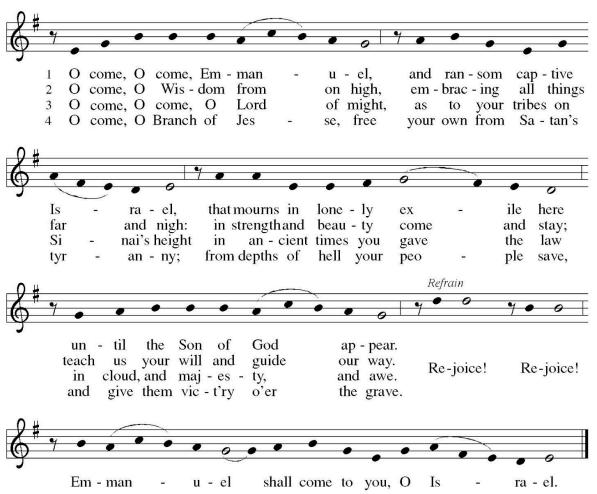
The presiding minister proclaims God's Blessing.

May God who comes among us, Father, ♣ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

Sending Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel Reprise (verses 1 and 6)

The assembly stands as they are able to proclaim the word of God in song.



- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

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

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MISSION NOTES

We are so glad that you are here with us for worship, and invite you to consider other ways to deepen faith and connect with the Redeemer community and the world around us - to which God calls us in loving service!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship!

Join us in welcoming the newborn Christ child! On Christmas Eve worship services will be held at 7 and 11pm, both with candlelight and carols. An anthem will be offered by the choir at 7pm and special music offered at 11pm. On Christmas Day at 10:30am, perhaps taking a pause from opening presents at home, come and join us for more rejoicing!

CommUNITY Spaces is Growing and You May be an Integral Lead

CommUNITY Spaces continues to grow as a dynamic hub for New Paltz and the Hudson Valley, and we're excited to share that we've created new materials to help us approach local businesses about underwriting the spaces we donate, fully or in part, to groups such as the Hudson Valley Symphony Orchestra, The Margaret Wade-Lewis Center for Black History and Culture, Lifetime Learning Institute, Regional AA, Resisterhood, and the LaSalle School (outpatient counseling services for children & families). As we prepare for 2026, these business partnerships will be essential in sustaining and expanding the CommUNITY Spaces ministry. Can you think of any local business owners you know, or businesses you personally support, who might align with our mission and values and who may be open to learning more about this sponsorship opportunity?

We have assembled a trifold brochure, a sponsorship opportunity program, and a cover letter for potential partners, and we would be grateful for any connections you can offer or any interest you have in sharing these materials with them - your involvement can help strengthen this ministry and support the many groups who rely on these spaces every week! Please reach out to our Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Heather Barton to share connections you may have by e-mail at heather@redeemernewpaltz.org or by phone Monday-Thursday between 8am and 2pm at 845.255.0051.

And thank you! By God's grace and our collective efforts the ministry of CommUNITY Spaces will continue to expand and thrive for years to come.

Council Corner

Council would like to thank everyone that has accepted the invitation to the Church Center directory. A directory has been a long time request of the congregation, so we are pleased it is now available. If you need a new invitation or help setting up Church Center contact Heather in the church office for assistance.

We had a visitor at the Council meeting in November! We invite and welcome anyone to attend who is interested. The meetings are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7-9pm on the church Zoom channel (same link as worship).

Christmastime Benefit Concert - VOLUNTEERS required

Help with concessions, set up, parking and more. Please see or email Erich Markert : erich.markert@gmail.com



Christmas Poinsettia Orders - Due Friday Dec 12

Order forms on the table in the Narthex. Link in Redeemer's Thursday Digest.

Greening the Sanctuary - Dec 21st

Let's decorate our Sanctuary with joy, love, laughter and singing some Christmas Carols.

Food Justice Efforts | Family of NP requests:

Pasta sauce Tuna Peanut Butter Jam or Jelly Oatmeal Canned fruit Shelf stable milk Cereal Canned milk Pasta and/or Rice sides

ONGOING

Sunday School - First & Third Sundays, 11-noon, Throughout the School Year

Fun-filled and engaging Sunday school with our Episcopal and Methodist ecumenical partners. Hosted here at Redeem in the SouthEast Classroom.

Free Fresh Food Giveaway

Volunteers are needed to help set up and/or stay a short time to help distribute food at our Free Fresh Food Giveaway every 2nd Sunday of the month. Contact Jackie Anderson 609 432 9622 or dogsinn136@gmail.com.

Bible Study at Redeemer w/a Meal

FOR DECEMBER: 2nd & 4th

TIME: 530pm - 7pm

Worship Incubators

First Sunday of each month - 11-1230pm Mission statement: Developing Christ-centered, multi-sensory worship opportunities that give praise and glory to God.

Good Trouble Coffeehouse & Open Mic Night

SCC hosted in partnership with Redeemer, New Paltz restarts Friday Oct 3rd, 7-9pm Then every First Friday thereafter.

Bonnie Crisci offers Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga at Redeemer New Paltz - Wednesdays at 1:30

Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Reverend Tobias V. Anderson, Pastor 90 State Route 32 South

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