

MUSIC *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* Jill Sousek, piano

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *People Look East* Jill Sousek, piano

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This man sent from God, John the Baptist, is the focal point of this painting. He is placed large and with a commanding presence in the foreground, looking and speaking forth to all that is before him. The path that unfolds out into the distance is crooked, winding, and desolate. But then, as word travelled that there was this prophet-like man preaching in the wilderness, the religious authorities in Jerusalem wanted to know more. Priests and Levites were sent to question John. They emerge in the painting, standing immediately before him in their priestly robes with power, asking him who he is. With his answer, he points them away from himself to the One, the Messiah, who stands among them but whom they do not know yet. Water and reflections emerge around their feet. Elijah in the fiery chariot appears in the background in response to the wonderings about John's identity. Then, the dove — not as the focal point yet, but off to the side — indicates the Messiah is in their midst and is to come. - *Paul Oman*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Welcoming All,
Growing,
and Sharing God's Love.*



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Second Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1254 S. Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166

Holy Communion

PRELUDE Jill Sousek, piano

Welcome and Announcements

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross ☩ *may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

MUSIC *Prepare the Way* Jill Sousek, piano

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLES

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us – in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations – or our memories – push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Candle of joy is lit.

MUSIC *Variation 2 on a French Noel* Jill Sousek, piano

ADVENT PRAYER

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

WORD

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ” as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not

worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

DRAWN TO THE WORD VIDEO

REFLECTIONS

MUSIC *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Jill Sousek, piano

APOSTLES' CREED

We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God. / **Your mercy is great.**

The petitions conclude: ... Jesus Christ our Lord. / **Amen**

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

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.

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