

HYMN #246 — *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Petitions conclude... name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek [5 PM/10:30 AM]

Ukrainian Bell Carol by **Joyful Ringers** [8 AM]

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN #266 — *All Earth is Hopeful*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek



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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 7, 2025

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God's grace is for us.
We wonder if God can really do all the work.

We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God is for us.
We are focused on getting everything accomplished by a deadline.

During this season of Wonder, let us remember that God, in love, brought salvation
to us. **God's grace is for us.**

HYMN #239 — *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

ADVENT WREATH

God sent a messenger to prepare our way to grace.
God is preparing us for grace.

God spoke through prophets to prepare the way.
God is preparing us for grace.

God is the one preparing us for grace.
Prepare us even now.

We light the second candle to declare to everyone that God prepares us for Grace.

HYMN #248 — *People Look East* [VERSE 2]

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Holy God, you gather us together as your people. Help us! Remind us of your
grace and mercy. Help us each day to see your grace-filled beginnings. Hear us
as we confess you:

A time for silent reflection and self-examination.

For times when we fail to recognize that your grace is for us. **Forgive us.**

For days when we forget that you not only love us, but also that you love all people. **Forgive us.**

For the days when we fail to share your love and grace. **Forgive us.**

For the times we are afraid to tell our own story or listen to someone tell theirs. **Forgive us.**

For the times we exclude people from the community into which you draw us. **Forgive us.**

For the times we are afraid to follow you. **Forgive us.**

Dear friends, God is at work in our lives though it might be difficult to see some days. God's grace will continually claim, restore, and remind us once again that we are loved. In the name of Jesus \dagger your sins are forgiven, and you are set free to love. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **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.**

A Winter's Night, So Deep by Joyful Ringers [8 AM]

WORD

FIRST READING — *Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of its roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day there will stand as a signal to the peoples the root of Jesse, of whom the nations shall inquire, and whose dwelling shall be glorious.

SECOND READING — *Romans 15:4-13*

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jewish people on behalf of the truth of God in order to confirm the promises given to the ancestors, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify our merciful God. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again, it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with the people of God"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise the Lord"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in whom the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**

GOSPEL — *Matthew 3:1-12*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the dominion of heaven has come near." 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 straight the paths of the Lord.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 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. Even now, the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. With a winnowing fork in hand, 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 of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDRENS' SERMON

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford