

St. Johns Lutheran Church

A shoot from the stump of Jesse



For David a righteous Branch,

St. Johns Lutheran Church

St. Louis, Missouri

Advent Midweek 2

December 7th, 2022

A Tale of Trees from Death to Life

Tree of Jesse (Tree of Promise)

AS WE GATHER

“An angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream” (Matthew 1:20a). Joseph was deeply troubled. Mary was pregnant. He considered quietly divorcing her. Then came the angel, saying,

“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20b–21). Joseph would still face unknowns, just as we all face unknowns. Yet he faced those unknowns filled with hope, because he trusted the word of God that came to him from the angel. So during this Advent season, we join Joseph in facing all of our unknowns with hope, trusting the Word of God that has come to us from the apostles, that Jesus is our precious ransom, only hope for sinful mortals, who gave His life and was raised, and who is coming again to restore creation to its original beauty and goodness.

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *(TWO BLUE CANDLES)*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

the light no darkness can overcome.

By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

All who wait for Jesus to return pray,

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 357 st. 4-5

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,

Free them from Satan's tyranny

That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,

And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel

**Shall come to thee,
O Israel!**

**O come, Thou 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]***

ADVENT LITANY

O God, our Father, You made a perfect and beautiful world. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed you by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree, sin and its curse corrupted the earth. Like them, we turn away from doing your will and so incur the curse of death. Turn us back to you to repent of our disobedience.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Heavenly Father, in your mercy and love you promised us a savior from sin's curse. Thank you for establishing the family tree by which You would come as descendant of Abraham, of Jesse and David, of Joseph and Mary to bring forth the savior, and thank you for grafting us into your family tree.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Almighty Lord, you were welcomed with palm tree branches and Hosannas when you entered Jerusalem. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we not only praise you with our lips, but also honor you with our lives.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Dear Jesus, You are the light of the world that no darkness can put out. As we light candles of prophecy and proclamation this season, let the light of your love shine on us. Make us your lights that we may shine the good news of your forgiveness on all we meet.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Lord Jesus, as we remember your birth in Bethlehem, remind us that you came because of our sin. In your great love for us, you endured humility and shame, dreadful suffering, and death on the tree of the cross. In dying, you paid for our forgiveness, and in rising, you opened the kingdom of heaven to us.

Help us to put our trust in your saving grace.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you created us, redeemed us, and made us Your own people. Keep us faithful to You all the days of our lives, that we may eat the fruit of the tree of life in Heaven and give You all thanks and praise forever.

Lord, have mercy, and come to us.

The Lord has had mercy and has come to us. When we repent of our sins, He covers them with Jesus' righteousness.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

READING *Isaiah 11:1-2 (shoot from Jesse)*

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING *Jeremiah 23:5-6 (a branch from David)*

⁵ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING *Luke 2:1-5 (Joseph of David's house)*

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be

registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING

Revelation 22:16 (I am the root and offspring of David)

¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright *LSB* 395 St. 1,4

**O Morning Star, how fair and Bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's Son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly holy! Great and glorious, All victorious,
Rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Almighty Father, in Your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above:
This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living,**

**To us giving Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

HOMILY

OFFERING AND TREE DECORATIONS

Choir sings: LSB 359 Lo, How a Rose

PRAYERS

As we wait for You, O Lord, we pray for peace among nations, peace across the factions in our nation, peace in our households, and peace that surpasses human understanding in our hearts.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guide us, like Joseph, to listen to Your Word and to respond to it with faith and obedience, especially in the midst of the fear of the unknown. Humble us before You, that we may gratefully receive whatever You provide. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Fill Your whole Church with anticipation for that day when Christ will return and guide us to springs of living water and wipe away every tear from our eyes. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of this day now almost past. Forgive both what we have neglected to do and what we have done wrong. Hold our loved ones close to Your heart. Bless the work that we do as we use the talents and gifts You entrust to us.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Heal the sick. Bless the dying. Uphold caregivers. Fill those who mourn with abundant hope through Christ's death and resurrection. Let all who suffer experience Your compassionate presence.

Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Accompany those who travel and those who work through the night to serve our community. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ. And let us rejoice in the fellowship of all the saints, entrusting ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.

NEPALESE SONG

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ✠ give us peace.

Amen.

HYMN Hail to the Lord's Anointed LSB 398 st. 1,2,4

**Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.**

**He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.**

**Kings shall fall down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing.
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.**

Preacher	Alvaro Witt Duarte
Readers	Vicars
Liturgist	Alvaro Witt Duarte
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli
Ushers	Cameron Hampel, John Benwell, Patrick Benwell, Jayvon Evers, Joan Potvin, William Gebhart, and Roger Schmidt

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