

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Mary Kramer-Long

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH

we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS

we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.

Hearing Assistance is available during the service.

Please notify usher if you would like assistance

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INTRODUCTION

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 light of Christ's coming. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"** #815 ELW
(Please rise for the singing of the last verse)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Silence is kept for reflection

God of all time,

**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.
In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to
seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.**

Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✚ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Please be seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: “A King has Come”

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

In today’s reading the prophet describes the ideal ruler who will come in the future as a green shoot springing from a dead stump (David’s royal line) of Jesse (David’s father). Gifted by the Spirit, this messiah will seek justice for the poor, and the reign of this monarch will be experienced as paradise regained.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The 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. ³His 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; ⁴but 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 he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The 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. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. ⁹They 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.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

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

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king’s son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May 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 water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the

moon shall be no more.

¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever 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. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For 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 patriarchs, ⁹and in order 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"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³May 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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks Be to God

Please rise for the Reading of the Gospel

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This 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.’ □” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he 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? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even 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. ¹¹“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. ¹²His 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 of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Please be Seated

SERMON: “The Weight of Sin and the Joy of Witness!”

Please Stand for the Hymn of the Day

HYMN OF THE DAY: “On Jordon’s Bank the Baptists Cry” #249 ELW

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 into hell. 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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

As we anticipate the fullness of the presence of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

A brief silence

For the church throughout the world, for all inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, and for all who proclaim the wondrous deeds of God; that all divisions and disagreements cease, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the earth and its creatures, for animals of every size, for plants that provide shade and nourishment; that we see God's goodness revealed in every living thing, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations and those in authority, for police officers and firefighters, for social workers and attorneys; that God grant them wisdom to work for peace and justice, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the poor, the meek, the unwelcomed, those suffering from malaria and HIV/AIDS, the sick and the bereaved (*especially*); that they experience Christ embodied in healthcare workers and caregivers, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those traveling and those absent from this gathering, for those serving in the military, for those preparing for baptism, and for our congregation; that in all we do we praise and glorify God, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who have died in Christ (*especially the theologian John of Damascus*); that they show us the way of hope through the incarnate Word, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION - *Distribution by intinction.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

#264 ELW

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music:	Choir
Greeters:	Del & Dianne Jones
Ushers:	Dave Lundahl, Dale Siems
Lector:	Sue Samuelson
Hospitality Hosts:	Del & Dianne Jones, Wally & Bev Swenson

Thank you for your service!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDANCE REGISTRY Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders which you will find in the pew.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON is Saturday, December 10th at 11:30 am. It is at church. Cost is \$10. Today is the last day to buy tickets.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA will be on Sunday, December 18th at 9:00am. There will only be one service that day.

POINSETTIAS Sign-up for Poinsettias plants in the Fellowship Hall. We will have the signup sheet there on Nov. 27th, Dec. 4th and 11th. Please help beautify our church for Christmas. The plants are \$15.00 each. Buy one in memory/honor of a loved one.

UPCOMING EVENTS Thursday, Dec. 15th – Poinsettia Tree. 10:00am.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – The tree is up in the Narthex ready for donations for Aitkin County youths, ages 0-18 years. Help trim the tree with hats, mittens, scarves, or any other unwrapped gifts that are age appropriate. Dead line for donations is December 11th.

NEED CHRISTMAS GIFTS? Bethesda Quilters and Jelly makers will display their products on Sunday, December 11th in the Fellowship Hall after the 9:00am service.

WINTER WORSHIP HOURS Starting today through March 2017, we will be having only one service at 9:00am on Sundays.

CHURCH SECRETARY POSITION OPEN The primary purpose of this part time Church Secretary position is to support, enrich, and expand the mission and ministries of the church by providing office assistance and a welcoming environment for all member or visitor inquiries while maintaining a strict sense of confidentiality in all matters. If interested please pick up a job description and application in the secretary's office and/or contact Steve Lackner at 320-630-6330.

COMING SOON! CHRISTMAS GIVING! Each Christmas season we have shared a portion of the veggie stand dollars and local benevolence donations with local families or individuals in need. There will be a Christmas Caring and Sharing suggestion box in narthex. If you know of someone who could use food or gas cards please complete the suggestion form provided. There will also be information in the Fellowship Hall from the ELCA and Heifer International suggesting that we consider giving animals to poor countries as part of our families Christmas giving .

CHRISTMAS PARTY CANCELLED – Christmas party scheduled for Monday, Dec. 5th has been cancelled. See Pat Becker for your refund.

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, November 27: 8:30am: 70 10:00am: 30

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

December 5 thru December 11

Monday	12/5	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		5:00 pm	Church Christmas Party-CANCELLED
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	12/6	10-noon	Pastor Text Study
		4:30 pm	Interim Meeting
Wednesday	12/7	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		9:30 pm	Mission & Evangelism Meeting
		4:30 pm	Transition Team Meeting
		6:00 pm	Cantata Practice
		6:00 pm	Confirmation
7:00 pm	Praise Team		
Thursday	12/8	8:00 am	Romeos
		12:30 pm	Funtimers
		12:30 pm	Stewardship
Friday	12/9	10:00 am	Bones
	12/9	11:00 am	Set up WELCA Luncheon
Saturday	12/10	11:30 am	WELCA Luncheon
Sunday	12/11	9:00 am	Worship

Longest Night – A Blue Christmas Evening Prayer

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016. Time to be determined.

On this darkest day All are Welcome!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Santa Lucia Luncheon

Friday, December 9th
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Zion Lutheran
A traditional Swedish meal
and music by the Swedish Singers
cost per person - \$9.00

Zion Lutheran
245 Central Ave S.
Milaca MN 56353

All proceeds will be shared
by benevolences supported by
the women of Zion.

Menu:
Kottbuller [meatballs]
Bruna Bonor [beans]
Gron Sallad [cole slaw]
Rod Betor [beet pickles]
Ragbrod [rye bread]
Julbrod [Christmas bread]
Risgryns Pudding [rice pudding]
Julbakelser [Christmas cookies]
Kaffe [coffee]

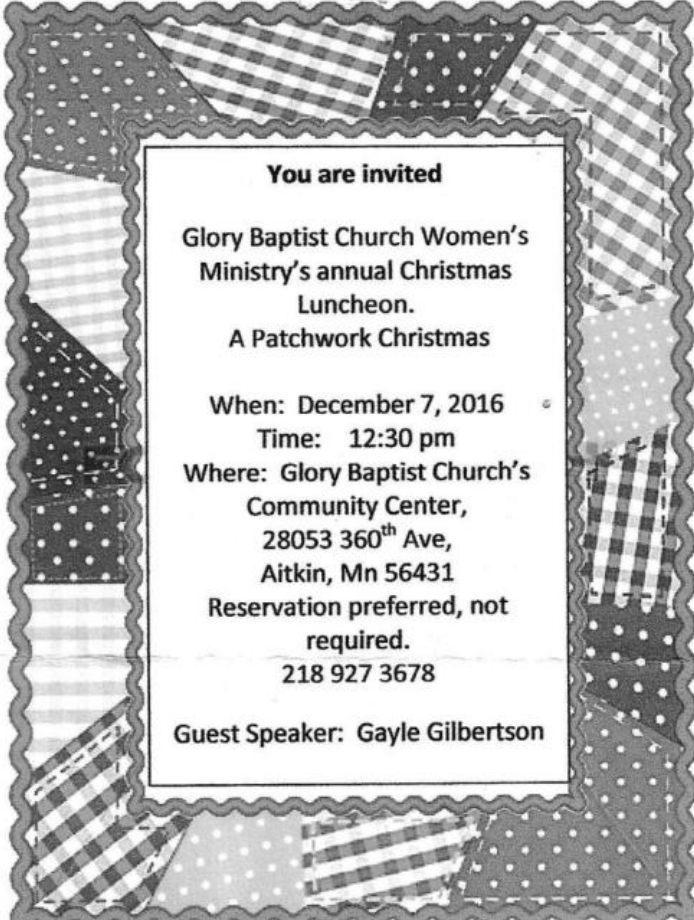


You are invited

Glory Baptist Church Women's
Ministry's annual Christmas
Luncheon.
A Patchwork Christmas

When: December 7, 2016
Time: 12:30 pm
Where: Glory Baptist Church's
Community Center,
28053 360th Ave,
Aitkin, Mn 56431
Reservation preferred, not
required.
218 927 3678

Guest Speaker: Gayle Gilbertson



Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca