Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Rebecca Kasian, SAM

Congregations of Medora, Belfield, Daglum

Musical Accompanists Tami Elefson – Medora Jean Franklin – Belfield

A warm welcome to you! We hope you are blessed in worship today.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Announcements

The Advent Wreath

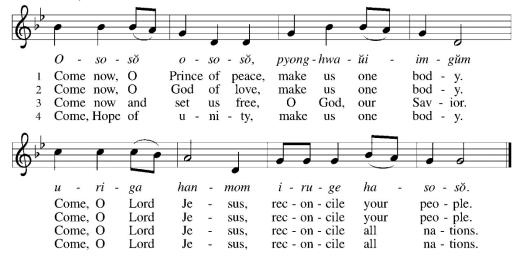
One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of ever- lasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Second Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

Amen.

Hymn #247 - Come Now, O Prince of Peace v1 & 2



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947 Text and music © Geonyong Lee

Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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

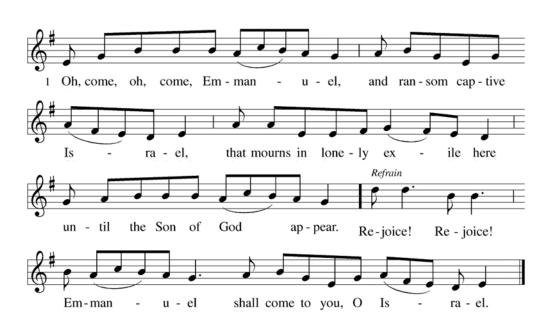
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

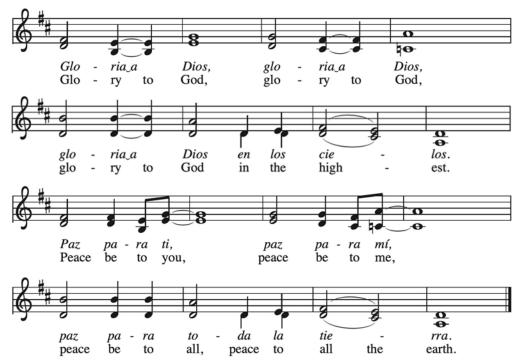
And also with you.

The Kyrie



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Hymn of Praise



Text: Marcus Veenstra; tr. composite

Music: GLORIA A DIOS, Marcus Veenstra; arr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966

Text and music © Marcus Veenstra, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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The Lord be with you **And also with You**

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.

*Congregation is seated

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² 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. ³ 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, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ On 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 72:1-7, 18-19

- 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;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- 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 water 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. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

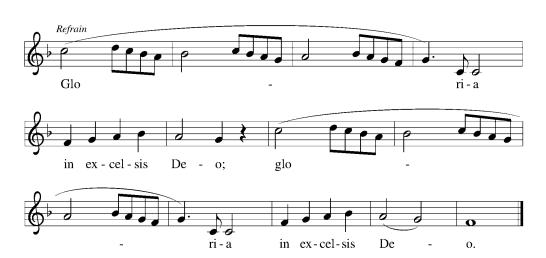
⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together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

Thanks be to God.

*Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to ______

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 of the Lord

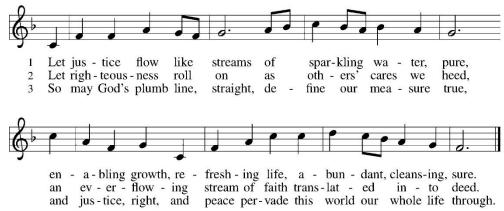
Praise to you, O Christ.

*Congregation is seated

Children's Sermon

The Sermon

Hymn #717 - Let Justice Flow like Streams



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

*Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Prayer Response: God of Grace, Hear our Prayer.

Remembering those in our prayers:

Barbara Hurt, Harold Hugelen, Donald Suomala, Joey Berger, Kevin Kuntz, Diedra Hlibichuk, Sherri O'Brien, Rick Baxter, Kris Hastings, Bonnie Streitz, Debbie Baca, Robin Sandaker, Barb Newton, Sandy Simnioniw, Tom Adams, Rick Wolfgram, Randy Wolfgram, Emma Hlibichuk, Denise Tibbs, Christine Perrin, Duane Tessier, Shirley Olson, Gerry Suomala, JoAnne Suomala, Mary Knotts, Dolores Roy, Cord Kessel, Halle Blain, Marilyn Oyhus, Craig McLaughlin, Lincoln Lee Johnson, Mindy O'Brien, Josephine Shypkoski-Thompson, those who have lost jobs, those seeking Sobriety, those struggling with infertility, all troops, their families, and those working for peace in our world.

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

Amen

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

*Congregation is seated

Meal

Offering

One of the ways we worship God is through the giving of our offerings. We worship when we give our hearts back to God through singing, through prayer, and through our offerings. We receive back from God the gifts of forgiveness and grace. Through financial giving we praise God for the blessings of having the resources to offer back to God that which has been given to us. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider how God is encouraging you to share your gifts. If you have not already left your offerings as you came in, please do so as you depart. Or, you may give online at belfieldlutheran.org or medoralutheranchurch.org and click on the support tab. We give thanks for the gifts you offer and pray for God's abundant blessings in return.

Offertory Hymn - "We are Waiting for Jesus"

²We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace. Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957 Text © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Stand

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

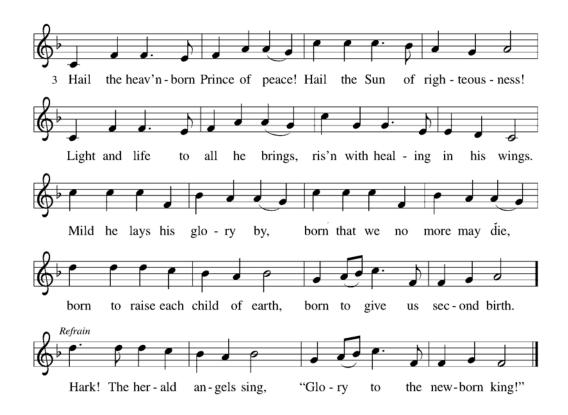
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

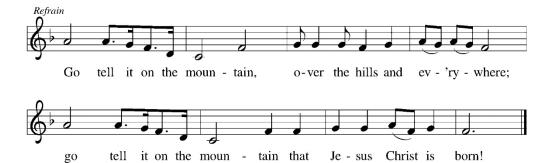
The Lord's Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. *Congregation is seated

Communion Distribution

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come forward and hold out your hands in the form of a cross or a cradle to receive the body of Christ. Choose a cup of red wine or white grape juice. If you are only able to receive one of the two elements, please know that you receive the fullness of Christ in one element. You may choose to receive a simple blessing if you prefer. Please notify an usher or the pastor if you have difficulty coming forward and communion will be brought to you.

*Stand

Post Communion Canticle



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

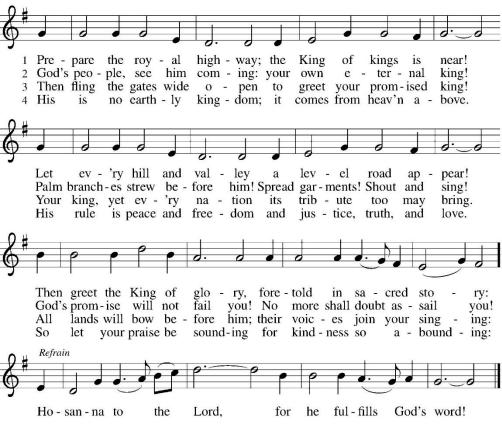
Amen

Sending

Benediction

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.**

Hymn #264 – Prepare the Royal Highway



Dismissal

Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Postlude

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- ** For emergencies or pastoral care please contact Pastor Mike Pretzer at 701-681-1306.
- ** <u>1st Communion</u> Today we welcome Tess Mlynar to the table of Holy Communion. Tess is the daughter of Kyle and Alyssa Mlynar. Welcome to the Lord's table, Tess!
- ** <u>Belfield Poinsettias</u> There is Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for donations for poinsettias. Make checks payable to Jean Franklin. The deadline to donate is Today.
- ** <u>Belfield Choir Service</u> The Belfield Choir will be providing music for both Medora and Belfield during the worship services on December 14, 2025.
- ** Wednesday School Christmas Program will be held on December 17, 2025 at Medora Lutheran Church. A soup supper will follow the performance.
- ** <u>Belfield Church Council</u> The Belfield Church Council is looking for 2 or 3 people to serve on the council. If you feel lead to serve the church in this way, please contact Dana Wanner for more information or to volunteer to be on the council. 701-260-5776
- ** <u>Cookie Walk</u> St John's Ukrainian Church is have their 8th Annual Cookie Walk on December 13, from 10:00am 12:00 pm. \$10 per lb Their address is 309 6th St NE, Belfield ND.
- ** Sponsorship Matters The Parish Visitor is made possible by the generous financial contributions of monthly sponsors and those of you who send gifts as you are able. The average full sponsorship is about \$350-400, but gifts of any size are welcome and help lower our publishing fees. Thank you for your generosity!

Announcements – Please send any announcements by Wednesday evening to Tami Elefson: call or text 701-290-4107 or email: office@belfieldlutheran.org or medoralutheranchurch@gmail.com

Today

8:30 am – Medora Worship

10:00 am – Belfield Worship

11:45 am – Daglum Worship

Tuesday, December 9

8:00 pm - AA Meeting at Belfield Lutheran Church

Wednesday, December 10

3:30 pm - Wednesday School at Medora Lutheran Church

5:30 pm – Confirmation at Belfield Lutheran Church

7:15 pm - Choir Practice at Belfield Lutheran Church

Thursday, December 11

7:00 pm – Bible Study at Belfield Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 14

8:30 am - Medora Worship

10:00 am - Belfield Worship

11:30 am - BDM Parish Council Meeting

Belfield, Daglum & Medora Lutheran Churches 701-575-4703