

The Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 6, 2009

*The Day of Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (d. 342?)
Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Setting Five*



First Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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INTRODUCTION



This day the Church commemorates and especially celebrates the life of St. Nicholas. Considered one of the most popular saints of the calendar, nearly nothing is known about his life. He was bishop in Myra, a Mediterranean seaport on the southwest coast of Turkey during the 4th Century. Beyond that fact, nothing else is certain. He aided the poor and once saved three daughters of a poor man from a tragic life by throwing bags of gold through the window of their home. He aided sailors who were in distress off the coast of his diocese, and once on a voyage to the Holy Land showed courage on board the ship during a storm, thus becoming the patron saints of sailors. Many cultural traditions have evolved Nicholas into the man we all know as Santa Claus.

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GATHERING

The GATHERING MUSIC: “Once He Came In Blessing”

The BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Holy Baptism
In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs—light and green branches—
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:

*The people that walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those who lived in a land as dark as death
a light has dawned.
You have increased their joy
and given them gladness;
They rejoice in your presence
as those who rejoice at harvest,
as warriors exult when dividing spoil. [Is. 9:1-2]*

The first and second candles are lit. The devotion at the wreath concludes with the following:

Let us pray...
O God of rejoicing,
we remember the promise of your Son.
As the lights burn from this candle,
may the blessing of Christ come upon us,
brightening our way
and guiding us by his truth.
May Christ our Savior bring life
into the darkness of our world,

and to us as we wait for his coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The GATHERING HYMN
“Fling wide the door”

ELW 259

The GREETING

The Pastor greets the assembly with the following words:
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

ELW pp. 156-157

The PRAYER OF THE DAY
The assembly is seated

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WORD

The FIRST READING

Isaiah 10:33—11:9

³³Behold, the Lord GOD of hosts
will lop the boughs with terrifying power;
the great in height will be hewn down,
and the lofty will be brought low.

³⁴He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe,
and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One.

Chapter 11

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And 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.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes
see,

or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and 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 of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf 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 cobra,
 and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
 in all my holy mountain;
 for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.

The reading concludes
 The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The PSALMODY

Luke 1:68-79



⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
 you have come to your people and | set them free.
⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,**
born of the house of your | servant David. Refrain
⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of | all who hate us,
⁷²**to show mercy | to our forebears,**
and to remember your | holy covenant.
⁷³This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,
free to worship you | without fear,
⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. Refrain**
⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,
⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge | of salvation**
by the forgiveness | of their sins.
⁷⁸In the tender compassion | of our God
 the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,
⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad- | ow of death,**

and to guide our feet into the^l way of peace. *Refrain*

The SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-14

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

The reading concludes

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands

The GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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The HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

The CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The SERMON

Silence for reflection

The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.

The HYMN OF THE DAY

“Comfort, comfort now my people”

ELW 256

The CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

The PRAYERS & PEACE

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MEAL

Senior Choir: “The Winter Rose”

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
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The GREAT THANKSGIVING

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The SANCTUS

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The THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (III)

Holy One,
The beginning and the end...*The prayer continues*

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith



Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*The prayer continues...*We look with hope for his coming.

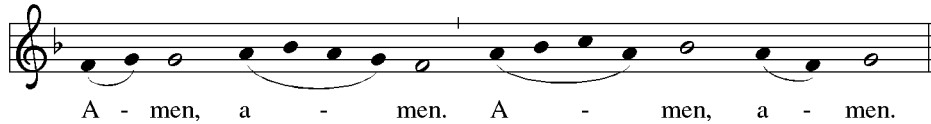
Come, Lord Jesus.

*The prayer continues...*Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The prayer continues and concludes...

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High
one God, now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

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The BREAKING OF THE BREAD

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

The assembly is seated

The LAMB OF GOD

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The DISTRIBUTION

*Believing in the Real Presence of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices Eucharistic Hospitality. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. **The Sacrament is distributed by coming up the center aisle and moving to the far end of the rail. Please kneel as you are able.** Those who do not wish to receive the Sacrament may approach with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

"Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding"

ELW 246

"On Jordan's stormy bank I stand"

ELW 437

The assembly stands.

The POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Let us pray... Almighty God, in the Eucharist you cleanse us from our
sins and prepare us for the coming of your Son. Make us
ready always to welcome him into our hearts as we receive
your Holy Sacrament; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

The SOLEMN BLESSING FOR ADVENT

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ
came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light
of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

Amen.

May He whose second Coming in power and great glory we
await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and
constant in love.

Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer,
at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

Amen.

And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the + Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you
forever.

Amen.

The SENDING HYMN

“How firm a foundation”

ELW 796

The SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

The SENDING MUSIC: “How Firm A Foundation”

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Acknowledgements

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Assisting Minister

Lynnea Thomas

Lector

Rose Cunningham

Acolyte:

Hannah Duff

Ushers:

Floyd Everhart, Jeff Duff, Heather Duff

Altar Guild:

Jane McGrath, Carol Schott, Debra Himes

PRAYER CONCERNS—Judy Himes, Vivian Barr, Cathy Hattery, Ruth Schram, Dawn Gasperowich, the family and friends of Isabelle Love, and all nursing home residents.

The **Altar Flowers** are given by David & Alice Keppler in memory of Robert & Ethel Anderegg.

The **Eternal Candle** is given by Gary & Bev Courtwright in honor of our grandsons Zane, Garen, and Renner.

The **Social Missions** committee is supporting “The Carpenter’s Cupboard” (the food pantry @ United Methodist Strasburg) for the month of December. Cash donations are needed but we are also collecting the following:

Gallon Ziploc food storage bags

Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Disposable diapers

Deodorant (men and women)

Sanitary Napkins or tampons

Cleaning supplies

Cleaning Supplies

Bath soap & shampoo

Laundry detergent and dish soap

Toilet paper, tissues and paper towels

We will collect these items in the box in the Narthex beginning Sunday, December 6th thru Sunday, January 3rd, 2010. Please give generously for those in need in our community.

Social Missions committee will meet Dec. 15th at 7PM.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN (Week of 12/6—12/13)

Sunday	<u>The Second Sunday in Advent (Commemoration of St. Nicholas)</u> 9 AM—Beach City Holy Communion 10:15 AM—Beach City Christian Education 9:15 AM—Strasburg Christian Education 10:30 AM—Strasburg Holy Communion 11:30 PM—Catechism
Monday	No Scheduled Activities
Tuesday	9 AM—Busy Bee Quilters 7 PM—Strasburg Church Council (Library)
Wednesday	10 AM— <i>The Book of Concord</i> (Beach City)
Thursday	7 PM— <i>The Book of Concord</i> (Strasburg)
Friday	No Scheduled Activities
Saturday	No Scheduled Activities
Sunday	<u>The Third Sunday in Advent</u> 9 AM—Beach City Service of the Word 10:15 AM—Beach City Christian Education 9:15 AM—Strasburg Christian Education 10:30 AM—Strasburg Holy Communion Children’s Christmas Program 11:30 PM—Catechism

All ministry is open to disciples in both Strasburg and Beach City congregations. The names “Strasburg” or “Beach City” denotes location