

*Nights of Awe & Wonder*

# Release

ADVENT II

December 4, 2022 | 9:30am



\* Congregational responses in **bold**

## Gathering Music

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

arr. Sondra K. Tucker  
arr. Lee J. Afdahl

## Words of Welcome

## Advent Wreath Lighting

*Be Still and Know*

ACS 1083

## Prayer

O God of freedom, there are so many other things that we cling to and that demand our focus. We fear the disruption of change and hold fast to the very things that cause us grief. Yet your promise assures us that we will find all that we need in you. Be with us and all your people in this season and guide us that we may set aside all that distracts us from you. In the name of the Holy One who was, is, and is to come. Amen.

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.  
**Blessed be God's name forever. Amen**

As we consider our lives before God, we offer our confession...

**God of new life, second chances, and growth from a stump, we come before you in humble recognition of our sin. We seek victory ahead of peace, short-term solutions to the long arc of justice, and prosperity over shared daily bread. Forgive us and return us to you, that our lives will reflect your will in the world.**

From out of the abundant grace and mercy of God, your sins are forgiven. Be ready to receive Jesus when he comes to you and live in the hope of God's relentless love. AMEN

## Gathering Hymn

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW 264

## Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## Kyrie

Pages 147-148

## Prayer of the Day

God of the child, the lamb, and the snake, for all that seems impossible, come to us in presence and power, that we might see what you see, for the world you love so well, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

## Reading

Isaiah 11: 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his 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 he 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 the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 72

Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
**that he may rule your | people righteously**  
**and the | poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**  
**rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,**  
**like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

**Blessed are you, Lord God, the | God of Israel;**  
**you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

**And blessed be your glorious | name forever,**  
**and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.**

## Gospel Acclamation

ELW 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

## Gospel

Matthew 3: 1-12

The Holy Gospel reading in Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom 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 his paths straight.'" 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 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? 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. 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."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

"A Shoot Shall Spring"

Pastor Paul Pettersen

## Hymn of the Day

*All Earth is Hopeful*

ELW 266

## Thank You for Your Generosity

## Sharing of the Peace

## Music at the Offering

*People, Look East*

*Hal H. Hopson*

## Noisy Offering | Offertory Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*(Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front)*

## Holy Communion

### Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## 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 our thanks and praise.**

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

## Sanctus

ELW 153

## Words of Institution

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

*Lamb of God*

ELW 154

## Distribution Hymn

*Be Still and Know*  
Andante from Sonata in b minor

ACS 1083  
J. S. Bach

## Communion Blessing

## Sending Hymn

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

ELW 239

## Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Sending Music

*Awaken Us, Lord, and Hasten*

J. S. Bach

## Worship at Normandale

### Worship Leaders

**Preaching:** Pastor Paul Pettersen

**Liturgist:** Pastor Rebecca Gamble

**Organist | Choir Director:** Gregory Peterson

**Musician:** Pamela Schaffer Reinhard, violin

**Deacons:** Jenny Bock, Wendi Breuer,  
Karen Newcomer

**Cantor:** Hannalore Brucker

**Choirs:** Normandale, Normandale Bells

**Communion Setup:** Pam Werley

**Handbell Choir Director:** Lorna Wolthoff

**Lector:** Rachel Leadholm

**Ushers:** Kemme Team

### Hymnals:

Both the ELW (red) and ACS (purple) hymnals are located in the pew backs.

### Livestream:

Visit [normluth.org/livestream](http://normluth.org/livestream) to watch Sunday worship wherever you are.

### Ways to Give:

**Online** at [normluth.org/give](http://normluth.org/give).

**Text** your gift amount to: (952) 260-5601

**Download the App** ShelbyNEXT | Giving Select Normandale Lutheran (55436)

**Hearing Devices** are available to enhance your worship experience. Please ask an usher if one is needed.

### NLC Kids:

**The Playground**, filled with quiet toys and comfy seating, is located inside the sanctuary to the right of the altar.

**Busy Bags**, also filled with quiet activities, can be found on pegs hanging just across the main entrance of the sanctuary.

**Bulletins & Coloring Sheets** are located on a table just outside the main entrance of the sanctuary.

**The Nursery**, supervised by professional preschool teachers, is available for children 6 months to 4 years from 9:20-11:30 every Sunday on the first floor.