

Order of Service for the Public Worship of God

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 7, 2008

Eleven O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson Liturgist: Arthur Forbes
Organist & Choir Director: Miss Beverly Antis

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN



THE PRELUDE *The King Shall Come* Robert Lau

THE CHORAL INTROIT *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Plainsong

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Sproat family (Rhonda, Jonah, Micah & Sophie)

As the second candle is lighted, those lighting will say,

“We light this candle, the candle of hope, as a sign of the coming light of Christ. In these days we await the promise of peace, when...”

The congregation will say,

“The wolf shall dwell 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. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.”

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

VENI EMMANUEL

***O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem;
from every foe deliver them,
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to Thee, O Israel!***

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION

THE CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of Life, we have bruised your Spirit in our living, damaged our world given in trust, called into question the relationships of life, and tarnished the image in which we were made. Spirit of life and love, forgive us.

Patient and loving Father, we have not walked worthily in the faith, sought justice, loved mercy or walked humbly with you. We have not followed the pattern of Christ's life nor always loved our neighbor as ourselves.

Forgive us, God, and teach us to forgive one another, so that by your grace this world, and we ourselves, may be transformed.

Now hear us as we pray...

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear the gracious words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "To all who truly repent, your sins are forgiven; take up your cross and follow me."
Friends, this is good news!

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

Gloria Patri

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

PC (USA) Study Catechism, Questions 32-34

Leader: [Question 32.] What do you affirm when you say Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary"?

People: **First, that being born of a woman, Jesus was truly a human being.**

Second, that our Lord's incarnation was a holy and mysterious event, brought about solely by free divine grace surpassing any human possibilities.

Third, that from the very beginning of his life on earth, he was set apart by his unique origin for the sake of accomplishing our salvation.

Leader: [Question 33.] What is the significance of affirming that Jesus is truly God?

People: **Only God can properly deserve worship. Only God can reveal to us who God is. And only God can save us from our sins. Being truly God, Jesus meets these conditions. He is the proper object of our worship, the self-revelation of God, and the Savior of the world.**

Leader: [Question 34.] What is the significance of affirming that Jesus is also truly a human being?

People: **Being truly human, Jesus entered fully into our fallen situation and overcame it from within. By his pure obedience, he lived a life of unbroken unity with God, even to the point of accepting a violent death.**

As sinners at war with grace, this is precisely the kind of life we fail to live. When we accept him by faith, he removes our disobedience and clothes us with his perfect righteousness.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

Kindly pass your Prayer Requests to the center aisle so they may be collected and forwarded to the Prayer Cordon for special attention.

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11 (*Pew Bible p. 633*)

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE ANTHEM *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

THE EPISTLE LESSON 2 Peter 3:8-15a (*Pew Bible p. 221*)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:1-8 (*Pew Bible p. 33*)

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE (Hymn Tune #333, Seek Ye First)

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Al-le-lu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Al-le-lu, alleluia!**

THE SERMON “A CRY FOR PEACE” Dr. Swanson

*THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER (using “debts” and “debtors”)

*THE THREE-FOLD AMEN Danish

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment*

*THE ADVENT DOXOLOGY - Hymn 36, vs. 4 CRANHAM

**What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.**

*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Use us, O God of miracles, and the offerings we have brought, to bring life and health and hope to your world. Make us generous and faithful stewards of your mysteries, as we share the bounty which you have granted unto us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 10

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry WINCHESTER NEW

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Peter C. Lutkin

*THE TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: Let us go in eager expectation of the in-breaking day of the Lord with all its fullness and peace. Wait and watch, pray and work, for such is the calling of faith.

People: **We will not grow weary, but urge one another on with words of hope and encouragement.**

Pastor: Then go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*THE POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Raymond H. Haan

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND.

Grace and Peace to All

*We want to get to know you,
especially if you are a visitor!*

Please introduce yourself to others sitting nearby during the passing of the peace. Fellowship Hour will be in the Assembly Room downstairs. (exit at the rear of the sanctuary, go down to the lower level, past the Library to the room near the Sallman painting of Christ knocking at the door.)



THE POINSETTIAS in the Sanctuary are given by members and friends in honor or memory of Loved Ones. A complete list of donors will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin. (A poinsettia sign-up sheet is available in today's worship bulletin.)

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Jane Hall.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Everyone is cordially invited to attend today's Fellowship Hour which immediately follows this worship service downstairs in the Assembly Room. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour is Jane Hall.

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

Mary Elizabeth Goehring . . . Hospice Care at Concordia
Mary Lee Marten Continuing knee pain, prayers for mobility
Ellie Walchesky Recent leg injury

For Continued Prayer:

Julie & Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell; Marian Curran; Mary Elizabeth Goehring; Joan Moore; Eleanor Ritts; Gladys Strobel; Bill Wilson

Birthdays this week:

Thomas Burkley & Andrew Burkley - December 10
The twin sons of Linda & Tom Burkley are turning 3 yrs. old this Wednesday!
Matt Drohan - December 13

ADVENT CHOIR REHEARSALS

The Covenant Choir will rehearse in the Sanctuary on Thursdays from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (a half-hour earlier) on December 11 and December 18. Sunday rehearsal time is 10 a.m.



Advent Calendar

Sunday, December 21 - Lessons & Carols Rehearsal for Readers, Choir and Pastor in the Sanctuary following the morning worship service

Christmas Joy Offering

Received during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on December 21st
Envelopes will be available in the December 21st bulletin.

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Prelude of Christmas Music
7:30 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols (based on the traditional service, Kings College, Cambridge, England)

FAIR TRADE GOURMET COFFEE & TEA ARE BACK AGAIN and will be available today in the Assembly Room at Fellowship Hour. Each packet (1.5 ounces) of *Café Salvador* contains enough coffee to make one (64 fluid oz.) pot of coffee. The cost is \$1 per packet. We also have Earl Grey Organic Tea at \$2.50 per box (25 teabags per box).

SEEKERS' CLASS COMING UP

9:45 a.m. in the Assembly Room

“A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus”

Video lectures by Kenneth E. Bailey, Th. D.



Part I. December 14

“Where was the Manger and what was the Inn”

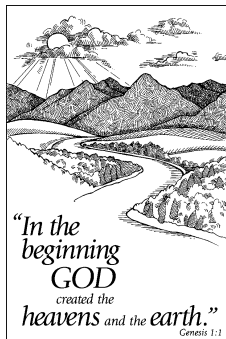
Part II. December 21

“Three Surprises: His Ancestors, Joseph and Herod”

Part III. December 28

“Salvation and the Wise Men”

PLEDGE REPORT



“Stewardship of God’s Green Earth, II”

Current Total as of December 5, 2008

29 Pledges = \$82,613

If you have returned your pledge, *THANK YOU!* If not, please place your pledge on the offering plate any Sunday morning, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to the church. Extra pledge cards and envelopes are available in the narthex.

When you are making out your Christmas cards this year, please take time to send one additional card to:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001



UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- Administration & Stewardship - Monday, December 15, 7 pm (Connell Room)
- Session - Tuesday, December 16, 7 pm (Assembly Room)

COME TO THE MANGER !



2008 ADVENT DEVOTIONALS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Once again this year, we are pleased to offer a printed *Advent Devotional* for you, created by Lutheran Hour Ministries. This year's booklet is titled "Come To The Manger" and is available also in large print. Please get your copy today (on the table at the back of the sanctuary in the narthex.) Extra copies have been printed, so you are encouraged to take additional devotionals to give to family, friends or neighbors.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

When the Levites and priests come from Jerusalem to question John the Baptist, wanting to know if he is the Messiah, John replies using imagery from the Old Testament (Isaiah 40:3)

"As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah," says Luke, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'"

Only, that's not exactly what Isaiah wrote. What Isaiah actually wrote is, "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.'"

A careful comparison of Isaiah and any of the Gospels shows that the Gospel writers changed and adapted Isaiah's words to suggest that the *voice* is crying in the wilderness, rather than a voice that is crying, "*In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.*"

Punctuation does make a difference; it changes the meaning slightly. But what were the Gospel writers suggesting, and why did they feel the need to re-write Isaiah's words? What do you think?

Holiday Hymn Sing at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Saxonburg

today Sunday, December 7th, at 7:00 p.m.

*A time of worship and praise, featuring musicians
and vocalists from around the area,
with a time of fellowship and refreshments to follow*



2nd Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2008

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail You as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
O let Your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.**

-- Charles Coffin, 1736, trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.
"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"
in The Presbyterian Hymnal

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor

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