

**BULLETIN TEMPLATE: Minnesota Valley Church
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
Date: Sunday, December 7, 2025
Church Year Date: 2nd Sunday in Advent**

Thank you dear musicians for your dedication to leading us in the worship of our great Savior. Pastor Tom

Prelude: Jan Ellingson (Fuglebergs sing)
Call to Worship: from Psalm 72

PASTOR: Endow the king with your justice, O God,
ALL: The royal son with your righteousness.
PASTOR: He will judge your people in righteousness,
ALL: Your afflicted ones with justice.
PASTOR: In his days the righteous will flourish;
ALL: Prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.
PASTOR: He will rule from sea to sea
ALL: And from the River to the ends of the earth.
PASTOR: Praise be to his glorious name forever;
ALL: May the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE READER: The first two Sundays in Advent are times of repentance and preparation. We let God clean our hearts as we clean our homes.

The second candle is the PEACE CANDLE. The United Nations was formed in 1945 to end all future wars through peaceful talks. It has not worked. We have seen continual wars with millions of casualties. The only one who can bring peace to our lives is Jesus, living in our hearts. The only one who can bring world peace is Jesus, when he comes again...we hope soon.

Light two purple candles and read: **Revelation 22:20** *“He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Hymn #5 “Come,Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Confession of Sin (Psalm 24:1-6): *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; 2 for he founded it upon the seas and*

established it upon the waters. 3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. 5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior. 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. Amen

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:

READER: Dave Fischer

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Isaiah 11:1-11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power ,the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. 6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. 9 They will neither harm nor 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 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious. 11 In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the sea.*

GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 11:2-15 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" 4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6*

Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." 7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 11 I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15 He who has ears, let him hear.

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: *I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of the Father, And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen*

Chorus: O Come Let us Adore Him Hymn #19 Chorus Only 3 times:
O Come Let us Adore Him...
We'll give Him all the glory...
For He alone is Worthy..

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER

PRAISE SONGS: 1 or 2 praise songs chosen by JAN (on PowerPoint)

SERMON: "STUDY UP!" Romans 13:11-14 Pastor Tom Olson, November 30, 2025 *Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

I. FOR PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Romans 15:4-6 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Romans 15:7-11 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs 9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name." 10 Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." 11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples."

III. FOR THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 13:12-13 And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him." 13 May the God of hope fill you with

all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the peace of God that passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen

SOLO: Becky Kruse, “Thank You Jesus for the Blood”

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, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

HYMN #163 (vs 1&2) “Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

HOLY COMMUNION (Dave Fischer prep and help)

Benediction

Closing Chorus (Hymn #21 v4): On a power point slide.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel.

Postlude: Jan Ellingson