



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN



November 28, 2021

First Sunday in Advent

Traditional Worship

Hanging of the Greens

Introduction

In our first lesson, the people are in exile, to the Babylonians, and now to Persia. The term “exile” is appropriate for the season of Advent. Daniel is an example of steadfast faith in a culture of competing loyalties. In our gospel lesson, Jesus reminds his disciples that they will face troubles in the world, and their faith in him will be challenged and opposed. Jesus urges us, to “be alert and pray.” We are not alone, even now, Jesus says, “your redemption is drawing near.” We pray that God will open our eyes to see Christ’s advent among us.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Hymn #248 People, Look East

Prayer of the Day

P Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Special Music

Thanksgiving Joy

Senior Choir

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

Christmas in America

Congregational Hymn (cranberry) #244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (v. 1 and 4)

The Lessons of Christmas

Congregational Hymn (cranberry) # 282 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (v. 1 and 4)

The Sanctuary Evergreens

Congregational Hymn (cranberry) #296 What Child is this (v. 1 and 2)

The Christmas Poinsettias

Congregational Hymn (cranberry) #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1 and 2)

The Paraments and Advent Colors

Congregational Hymn (cranberry) #267 Joy to the World (v. 1 and 2)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: In the season of Advent, we are actively watching and waiting for signs of Christ's return in our world. As we prepare for Christmas, we are preparing for God to enter our world and our lives in a new way. Look all around for the signs that God is doing something new in our world. Look all around to see what God is doing new in your life. Seek the signs of God's reign around us.

Light the first candle

C: Signs of light and wonder, signs of hope, may we treasure what we have heard and seen, and ponder them in our hearts this Advent. Amen.

Children's Message

First Reading: Daniel 6:6-27 (*Italics – reader 1, Bold – reader 2*)

R1 *To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's faith is recorded as an example. Though threatened with the lion's den, he will not forsake or deny God.*

R2 **⁶So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! ⁷All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. ⁸Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." ⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.**

R1 *¹⁰Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. ¹¹The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God.*

R2 **¹²Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." ¹³Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day."**

R1 *¹⁴When the king heard the charge; he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down, he made every effort to rescue him.*

R2 **¹⁵Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."**

P1 *¹⁶Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" ¹⁷A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.*

R2 **¹⁹Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. ²⁰When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" ²¹Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I**

was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." ²³Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions — they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

R 1 ²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: "May you have abundant prosperity! ²⁶I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: For he is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end. ²⁷He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for he has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."

R 1 God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

C Thanks be to God!

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) # 174 Celtic Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia . Alleluia, alleluia

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty first chapter.*

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P: *The Gospel of the Lord,*

C: Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

Message: Prepare the way-keeping Christ in Christmas Pastor John Omans

Message Song: (cranberry) #240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed (cranberry) Pg. #105

The Prayers of the Church

P O God, hear our prayer,

(After each petition the congregation responds with the following:)

C and let our cry come to you.

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.

(We share Christ's peace)

(please be seated)

Stewardship Minute

There are many reasons to say "Thank-you" to all of you for your involvement with our 2021 Advent and Christmas mission projects! We have received: 1) gifts for Military boxes 2) Red Shirt school at Pine Ridge Reservation 3) Bethlehem Inn 4) volunteers and donations for our Christmas 'drive-thru' event! ... Through your involvement, we bless the lives of others. Thanks be to God!

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray:

P: Merciful God,

C: in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord's Prayer pg. #112 (Our Father, Who art in heaven,)

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

Blessing

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn (cranberry) #242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Sending

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

PLEASE WAIT FOR USHERS TO EXIT YOU OUT OF PEWS.

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Jan Macklay

Acolyte: Jenna Hudak

Reader: Janet Wichmann & Sam Macklay

Ushers: Steven & Jodi Schroeder

Council Person: Terry Huber

Videographer: Gyles Randall

Facebook Live: Curt Yess

Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.

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