



Advent

PREPARE THE WAY

November 28 2021

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
300 Queen Street
Northumberland, PA 17857
570-473-3770**

Welcome to St. John's! We begin a new church year with the season of Advent, a time for waiting and preparing for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O U R I S H I N G A
N S E R V I N G T H E

While waiting and preparing for the celebration of that blessed Christmas Day, we look for the presence of Jesus already among us! Throughout this Advent season we will progressively decorate the church in preparation for the one who has already come, is present among us now, and will come again!

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait, in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ADVENT WEEK 1

This week to adore our worship space with Advent paraments, Advent Wreath and the manger.

A reading from Isaiah 40:3-5

In the wilderness prepare the way of the lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our god. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low. Then the glory of the lord shall be revealed.

Narrative: We have placed the advent paraments, which are blue, a royal color to remind us of the king of kings, who came to be the "light of the world."

A reading from Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In

those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Narrative: The advent wreath is a vivid symbol of preparation. The lighting of a new candle each of the four weeks before Christmas reminds us that something is happening, but more is yet to come. The circle of evergreens reminds us of the everlasting covenant offered in the birth of Jesus. The four candles symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. Today, we light the first candle as a symbol of Christ, our hope. May the light sent from god shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

Prayer during lighting of the 1st Advent candle:

Blessed are you, god of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,
Let us walk in the light of the lord. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN *He Came Down* (vs. 2) **ELW 253**

PSALM 25:1-10 **read responsively**

REFRAIN: *To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)*

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths. R**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. R**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies. R**

Please stand, if you are able, for the Gospel Acclamation and reading of today's Gospel lesson.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

REFRAIN: Alleluia. Stand up and raise your heads- your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia. (Luke 21:28)

GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.” ²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

A Reading from Luke 2:6-7

And while they were there the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the Inn.

Narrative: The manger or crèche, is placed as a reminder that Jesus Christ was born in the humblest of places, because humankind would not make room in their heart to hold the Son of God. Jesus, who was born in this most modest beginning, has compassion on all God's children - from the humblest to the richest.

SERMON

HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

We present Hadley Adalyne Leiby for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Hadley in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Hadley and pray for her life in

Christ?
We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. For in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom. **Amen.**

BAPTISM

Hadley Adalyne Leiby, I baptize you in the name of the Father,* and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Hadley with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and

understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Hadley Adalyne Leiby, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
Amen.

WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

BAPTISM HYMN

Baptized In Water

WOV 456

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty god, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing new brothers and sisters as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Today we welcome new members who have transferred into St. John's Ann Theiman, Merrilie and Frank Yorty, and for the newly baptized Hadley Adalyne Leiby. Keep us close together in your spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and

uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us,
O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect.
Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

Thank you for your continued support with your offering. Offering may be placed in the offering plate on the table in the rear of the sanctuary, by mail or our on-line giving.

OFFERING HYMN

OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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

Amen.

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace. Amen

Individually packaged communion will be distributed, please be seated.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

We go now to be a light in our community, **to make Christ known to all through nourishing, serving, and faith. Thanks be to God!**

Thank you for worshipping at St. John's today. We pray that you have a blessed and Christ-filled week! See you next week!

Pastor

Karla Leiby

Director of Music

William Jacavage

Pastor Emeritus

Dale Biesecker

Acolyte

Isabella Kremer

Communion Assistant

Barb Moyer

Lector

Gail Lehman

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in honor of Shelly Hite, whose birthday is celebrated this week by her father, Gary Smith.

Today we welcome into our St. John's family, through Holy Baptism, Hadley Adalyne Leiby. And through transfer of membership Ann Theiman, and Frank and Merrilie Yorty.

Anyone available to help set up for the Christmas Bazaar – we will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, December 1. Any help is appreciated.

Christmas Bazaar will be held Friday, December 3 from 9 a.m.- 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 4 from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. The North Pole Diner will close one hour prior to the bazaar closing. Saturday, December 4 from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. there will be a “mystery sale”.

Mitten Tree gifts need to be returned to the office by Sunday, December 12 in order for our elves to get them ready for delivery.

Birthright gifts can be turned into the office anytime between now and December 23 or brought to the Christmas Eve Service on December 24. Please wrap in white tissue paper.

Advent Bible Study will be held on the Tuesdays during Advent in the Library at 1 pm and 7 pm. Please join us as we prepare the way for the Lord.