**Worship Plan for Sunday December 8, 2019**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**GATHERING SONG** *Savior of the Nations Come, ELW 263 (Vs. 1, 3, 6)*

**WREATH LIGHTING & PRAYER -** (Use this blessing when lighting the first two candles)

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come

**Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen**

**CHOIR ANTHEM People Look East**

*(The first reading is read by the lay assistant)*

**THE FIRST READING**:  Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2The 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. 3His 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; 4but 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. 5Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6The 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. 7The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. 9They 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.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second reading Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

The second reading is from Psalm 72.

1Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king’s son.

2May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

3May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

4May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

5May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

6May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

7In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

18Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

19Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

3In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3This 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.’” 4Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7But 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? 8Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9Do 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. 10Even 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. 11“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. 12His 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.”

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *On Jordan’s Banks the Heralds Cry (ELW 248, v. 1, 2, 4)*

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending, the lay assistant reads the indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of promise, your reign has come near. Call your people to the way of repentance and inspire your church to bear fruit in the world through acts of faithful service. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and all species whose lives are intertwined. Repair and preserve ecosystems, that all life on earth may be sustained. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach those with power and privilege to serve the vulnerable. Give to all leaders wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and a heart of compassion for the world you so love. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

God of the poor, set tables of abundance in all places where hands are empty, where stomachs ache with hunger, and where hearts and minds suffer pain. Feed and heal all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

God of hope, renew in your people all joy and peace in believing, especially those facing anxiety, depression, or alienation. Guide this community of faith to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomes us. *Today we pray especially for … and for those we now pray for either aloud or silently in our hearts*. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you promise to take away our sin and gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors on earth, freed from pain and the power of death. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**COMMUNION CANTICLE** *Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)*

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.”

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit; in our gathering; within this meal;   
and among your people throughout the world;   
even as we pray in the words of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**COMMUNION**

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face,

And in the gift of Christ’s body and blood,

Our hearts have been refreshed.

Send us out to share your grace with our neighbors

and bear witness to the one we have received:

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**announcements**

**Blessing**The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you  
The Lord look upon you with favor, + and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

*Turn to your neighbor and tell him or her,*

***In Jesus Christ***

***--- we have hope.***

***Share hope by the bucketful!***

**Sending Song** *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (ELW 244)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the Good News.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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