

ADVENT MIDWEEK 2

DECEMBER 8, 2021

**congregation stands*

AS WE GATHER

The biggest bully on the block of life is a liar and the father of lies. We know him as the devil and Satan. And Satan hits us with his lies and rubs our face in our dirt. That's why God sent a man named John—*John the Baptist*.

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION (From 2 Corinthians 13:14 and John 1:1-18)**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

P In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C **He was with God in the beginning.**

P Through him all things were made.

C **Without him nothing was made that has been made.**

P In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

C **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.**

P The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

C **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only.**

P Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

C **From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.**

P The Law was given through Moses.

All: Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ!

HYMN Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates LSB 341, vs. 1–3

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

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***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341,

vs. 4, 5

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

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***COLLECT**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Behold your God!"

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.

¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

***GOSPEL READING**

John 1:6–9, 15

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

***APOSTLES' CREED**— *See projection slides or the inside back cover of the pew hymnal.*

SERMON

"A MAN NAMED JOHN"

based on John 1:1-18

HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptists Cry

LSB 344,

vs. 1, 2, 3, 5

1 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!

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

3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Please stand

5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

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***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, Satan often attacks us with his lies, seductions and half-truths.

C **So we run. And we run some more.**

P And we keep on running.

C **That's why you sent a man named John—John the Baptist.**

P He came as a witness to testify concerning the Light, so that through him we might believe.

C **He himself was not the Light; he came only as a witness to the Light.**

P And this Light fights for us.

C **We thank you for Jesus.**

P Help us believe in him.
C **Help us listen to him.**
P Help us gain great courage from him.
C **For you are calling us to come home.**
P Into the strong, loving and protecting embrace of Jesus.

+ Additional Prayers +

P Father, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that in Christ you shatter, scatter and overcome all darkness.
C **We pray in Christ's strong and saving name.**
All **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**— *See projection slides or the inside back cover of the pew hymnal*

***BENEDICTION**

P John writes his gospel so that we may believe.
C **That Jesus is the Christ—**
P The Son of God.
C **And that by believing we may have life in his name.**
P Go forth in his name—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—for in his name you have life.
C **Abundant life.**
P Joyful life.
C **Eternal life.**
All **Amen.**

HYMN **Christ, the Word of God Incarnate** **LSB 540,** *vs. 1, 5, 6*

1 Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham; Christ, the radiance of the Father, Perfect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our path with Your own presence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.	5 Christ, the way that leads unfailing To the Father's home on high, Christ, the truth that frees the captive, Christ, the life that cannot die. Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest: Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions, There to share Your wedding feast.
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Please stand

6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
Christ, the life and resurrection,
Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration
And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit
And to You eternally.

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SILENT PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for John the Baptist. I will listen to him, stop running, and fall into the arms of Jesus. Amen.

For next week

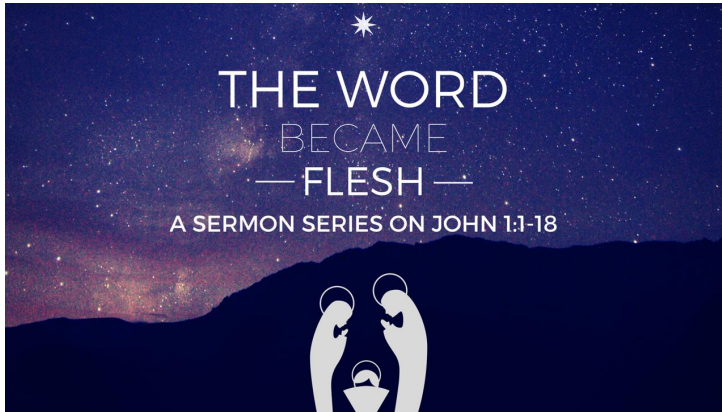
Read John 1:10–13 and answer these questions:

1. This section contrasts those in the world who reject Jesus and those who recognize him for who he is. Why do some reject while others accept?
2. John 1:10 employs the term "world" three times. In spite of being rejected by the world, see John 3:16 to see how God responds. What does this teach you about God's love?
3. We are *God's* children. Does this happen naturally or were we adopted?

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Serving our Lord

	Wed. Dec. 8, 6:30pm	Wed. Dec. 15, 6:30pm
Preacher	Pastor Lessing	Pastor Kroonblawd
Liturgy	Pastor Kroonblawd	Pastor Kroonblawd
Musician	Marsha Workman	Marissa Bernau
Cantor	Dave Workman	Dave Workman
Altar Guild	Nancy Strand	Nancy Strand
Elder	Jim Nicklas	Sam Erdman
Usher Team	Gary Sheets	Sam Erdman
Acolyte	Open	Open
Projection	Tim Morris	Open
Live Stream	Jim Nicklas	Jim Nicklas



Advent and Christmas Worship

Come adore the Word made flesh through song, service and worship. For more information visit www.trinityloneoak.org



Advent Meal* & Advent Worship
Dec. 8, 15 | 5:15 & 6:30**pm



Salad luncheon and cookie exchange | Dec. 19 @ 11:30am
Caroling to TLO's home-bound | Dec. 19 @ 3:00pm



Family Worship | Dec. 24 @ 3:30pm
Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion | Dec. 24 @ 7:00**pm
Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion | Dec. 25 @

* Event Sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial

**Livestreamed at www.trinityloneoak.org

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Service Project for Eagan Police

We are asking you to share a Christmas card for someone on the Eagan Police Department staff. Please add a short message of gratitude for their service in a Christmas greeting and bring it to the TLO narthex by Dec 15. We need 100 cards. Stop by the narthex display to learn more.