

SECOND SUNDAY OF

Advent



*New Life Ev. Lutheran Church
Lake Zurich, IL*

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

*Vacancy Pastor Steve Radunzel / Pastor Thomas Schultz
(847) 438-5018*

www.newlife-wels.org

+++++

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: 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. Amen.

Today's Service: "Service of the Word" NPH reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #11327771.

***Today's Theme:* IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF THE JUDGE**

The judge is an important person. You stand when he enters the courtroom. What he says must be obeyed. If you are the one on trial, his determinations make a big difference in how your life will continue.

You might be quite nervous if the judge is about to arrive. John invited people to turn their nervousness to repentance. He says that the arrival of the Judge is imminent, and the kingdom of heaven is near! You are invited to hear John, repent, and believe the good news of the coming Savior.

Pastor's Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes our patient anticipation of Christ's coming which draws nearer and nearer

Pastor: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

People: We remember Jesus who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

Pastor: We hear his call to repent.

People: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

Pastor: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

People: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Two Advent candles are lit during the Opening Hymn (CWS 702)

**We light the Advent candle And wait for Christ to Come.
With hope we trust the promise That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior Who wins for us God's favor.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle and thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right.**

Confession and Absolution Psalm 72:2, 4, alt.; Philippians 1:6

Pastor: May God judge His people with righteousness and justice.

People: May He defend the poor, deliver the needy, and crush the oppressor.

Silence for self-examination.

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Kyrie

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from You all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the spread of Your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in You, hear our prayer, O Christ.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await Your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for You.

People: Amen.

Pastor: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Greeting

Pastor: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, grant to us the wisdom of Your Spirit and the blessing of faithful voices, that they may call us to prepare for the coming One and so that all who have heard Your Word and have been baptized into Christ may be preserved from evil, be counted worthy in Christ to be delivered into Your eternal kingdom, and be kept to the day of His coming at the end of all things; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and to the end of the ages.

People: Amen.

The First Lesson: **Isaiah 11:1-10** – Isaiah gives the credentials of the one who would come to judge.

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 might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and 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 cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with 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 resting place will be glorious.
(NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

A *shoot* WILL grow
FROM THE *stump* of Jesse,
AND A *branch* FROM HIS *roots*
➤ WILL bear fruit.◀
THE *Spirit* OF THE *lord*
WILL *rest* ON HIM.

ISAIAH 11:1-2



Psalm 130

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O Lord;
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Psalm tone

Psalm tone

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;*
O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive*
to my cry for mercy.

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,*
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness;*
therefore you are feared.

Refrain

I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.*
My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,*
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

The Second Lesson: **Romans 15:4-13** – God’s people face the coming judgment with hope, not fear.

⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ 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, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;

I will sing the praises of your name.”

¹⁰ Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹ And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;

let all the peoples extol him.”

¹² And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,

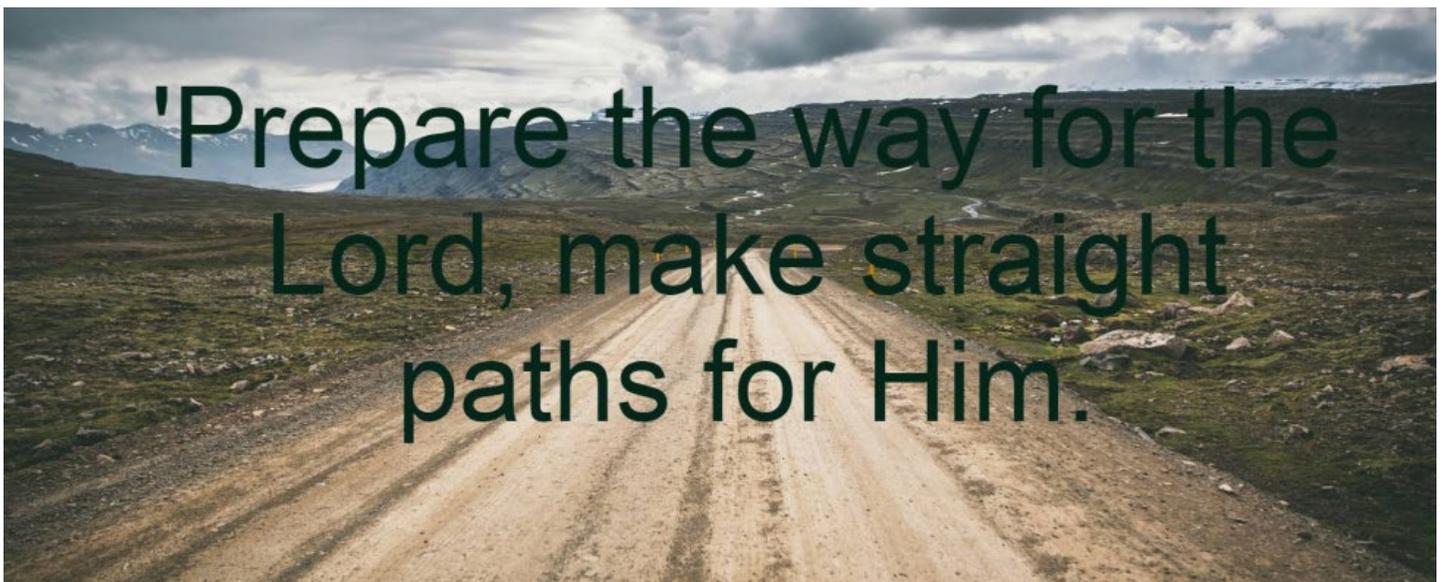
one who will arise to rule over the nations;

in him the Gentiles will hope.”

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. (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

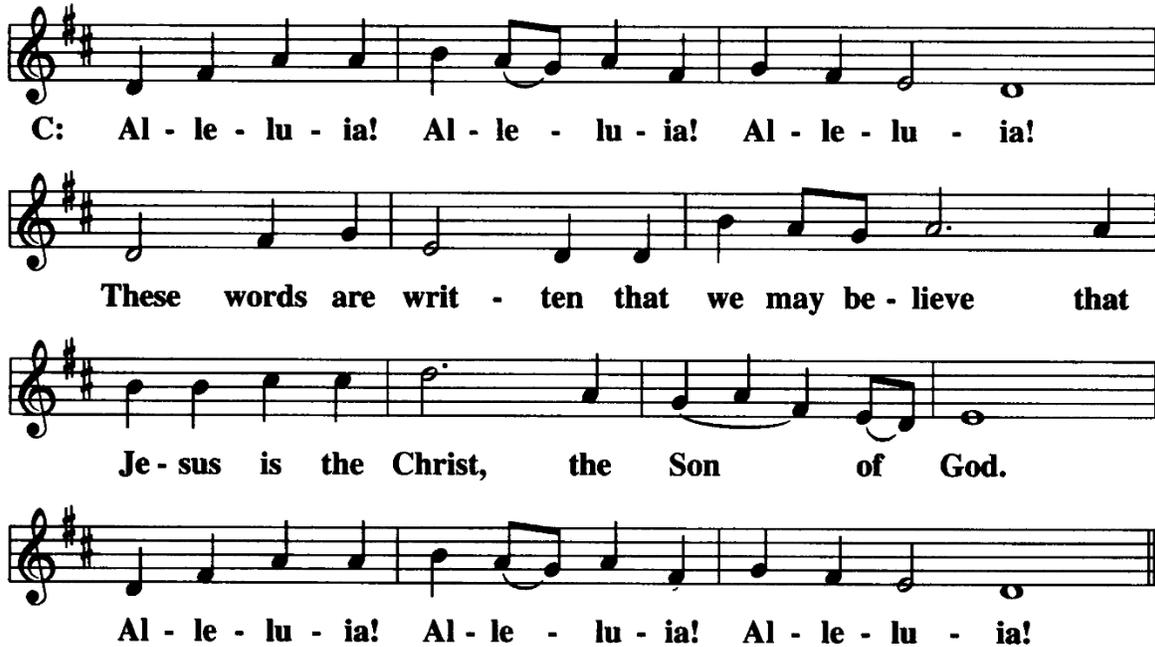
People: Thanks be to God!



Verse of the Day:

Pastor: Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

The Gospel Acclamation:



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 3:1-12**— John prepared people for the arrival of the Judge by emphasizing the nearness of the kingdom of God.

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” (NIV 2011)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: CW 360 “Behold a Branch is Growing” (CW93 47)

The Sermon Matthew 3:1-12 Christmas is Coming – Ready or Not?!

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offering

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Merciful God, You remember Your covenant forever, for a thousand generations. Teach us to remember Your wondrous works and seek Your strength and presence continually. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, the voice of Your prophet broke the silence to prepare the way for Your Son. Give Your people the courage to speak Christ to the nations and teach those still in darkness and death about His gift of light and life. Keep us from being ashamed of the Gospel or intimidated by the opinions of others. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Father, You give Your Word to the Church for encouragement and instruction in endurance. Continue to instruct us by Your Word, that we may abound in hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, You preserved Jesse's faithful line by the incarnation of Your Son. Give families and individuals strength to faithfully fulfill their vocations to love and forgive one another, that we may be trained up in Your fear, love and trust. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, Your Son rules over creation with justice and righteousness. Endow those in authority with the desire and ability to protect the innocent, punish the wicked and work for the common welfare. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy God, St. John spoke the promise of healing to the broken and wounded. Give to all afflicted in body or mind the riches of Your grace, healing according to Your will, and grace to carry them through the day of their trouble. [*We pray especially for* _____.] Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord God, heavenly Father, grant us all things needful and keep from us all things harmful to us and to our salvation, that with confidence in Your will, we may say "amen" to our prayers and live in contentment and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Closing Collect

Pastor: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage and a hope that cannot be extinguished, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us, Your love supporting us and Your Son abiding with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: CW 316 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (CW93 16)

The Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: James

Today—Second Sunday in Advent Divine Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Family Advent Craft at 10:45 AM

Zoom Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

Thursday – Green Team at 6:30 PM

Next Sunday—Third Sunday in Advent Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Zoom Confirmation Class at 5:00 PM

FAMILY ADVENT CRAFT

Joan James will be showing us how to make a special Family Advent Craft after the service today. This will take the place of Adult Bible Class and Sunday School. We hope everyone can join us for this special time of fellowship.

BRANCH CONNECTION CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Branch Connection cordially invites all ladies to a Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 PM. It will be held at Joan James' house. Her address is: 21449 N. Thrush Court, Deer Park. Please bring a dish to share as well as a \$20 gift for the gift exchange. Please also bring 3 or more little inexpensive gift items (examples include Chapstick, lottery tickets, gum, candy (no chocolate), small dollar store items, etc.). These items need to be given to Kelly Daugherty by Sunday, December 14th so she can place them in a Saran Wrap ball for a fun game.

GREEN TEAM

Green Team meets this Thursday, December 11th at 6:30 PM. The children will learn about the inventor Gerardus Mercator and the concept of longitude and latitude. Preschoolers through 8th graders are welcome to join in the fun.

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

There is a new sign-up sheet posted for the months of December-February. Volunteers are needed to provide something to eat and drink after Sunday services. We thank everyone who helps provide refreshments for our fellowship time.

ADVENT CALENDARS AND OFFERING ENVELOPES

There is a table near the New Life Café with Advent calendars and offering envelopes. Please pick up your envelopes and choose a calendar to help you observe the Advent season.

CALL MEETING

On Saturday, November 29, 2025, Pastor Seelow sent a call return letter to New Life. His call return letter is posted in the fellowship hall. Our synods practice is to have a Christmas / New Years call hiatus. Our next (3rd) call meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 18, 2026 following the worship service.

VACANCY

During the vacancy Pastor Steven Radunzel will be here on Sundays and Pastor Tom Schultz will cover any ministry needs that arise during the week.