

## THE SECOND WEDNESDAY IN ADVENT, December 9, 2020

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

### OPENING LITANY

P: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: All those who await his appearance pray:

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: The whole creation pleads:

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

### PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### FIRST LESSON

Matthew 3:1-11

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

P: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### SECOND LESSON

Matthew 11:1-15

When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities. <sup>2</sup> Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" <sup>11</sup> Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

<sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

**P:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**MEDITATION**, *Light of Faith and Creation*

**MEDITATION RESPONSE**

**P:** The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light,

**C: they who dwelt in the land of shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.** *(Isaiah 9:2)*

**P:** The light shines in the darkness,

**C: and the darkness has not overcome it.** *(John. 1:5)*

**ADVENT HYMN**

**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”, LBW 30**

*(Text: Public Domain)*

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.  
Born thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**PRAYER AND OTHER INTERCESSIONS**

**P:** Let us pray. Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

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

**C: 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.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

**BLESSING**

**P:** Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen**