

The Reading: Daniel 6:1-27

¹It pleased king Darius of Babylon to appoint 120 regional governors to rule throughout the kingdom, ²with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The regional governors were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. ³Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the regional governors by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴At this, the administrators and regional governors tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.” ⁶So these administrators and regional governors went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! ⁷The royal administrators, prefects, and regional governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. ⁸Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Babylonians, which cannot be repealed.” ⁹So King Darius put the decree in writing. ¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹²So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?” The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Babylonians, which cannot be repealed.” ¹³Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Israel, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” ¹⁴When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. ¹⁵Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Babylonians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.” ¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!” ¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. ¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. ¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?” ²¹Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.” ²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. ²⁴At the king’s command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. ²⁵Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: “May you prosper greatly! ²⁶“I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. “For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. ²⁷He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Sermon: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Sermon: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Hymn of the Day & Offering: *Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>. Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.*

“Prepare the Royal Highway” #264

**Vs. 1: Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word!

Vs. 2: God’s people, see him coming; your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout & sing! God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! [refrain]

Vs 3: Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev’ry nation its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him: their voices join your singing: [refrain]

Vs 4: His is no earthly kingdom: it comes from heav’n above. His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: [refrain]

Offertory Response: *“Give Thanks” (ushers bring offerings forward)*

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.

Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.

Offertory Prayer: L: Let us pray,

C: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for gifts that sustain our lives every day. We offer back what you have first given us. Use our time, talents, and treasures to serve your mission in our world. Amen.

Nicene Creed: *(please stand as you are able)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers: *(call and response)*

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence. *A brief silence.* God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life’s transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering especially Keith Brown, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Shawn Fredrixon, Marc Bode, Harlan Reese, Beth Carlson, Gage Miller, Alex Stehr, Maria Starr Quiggle, Perry Fitzgerald, Tanya Bakken, Lorraine Hinsch, Jeff Ferkinhoff, Henry Strauss, Diane Krenke, Colton Zimdars, Steve Pabst, Chase Hanson, and Justin Fette. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, & receive these prayers & the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace: P: The peace of Christ be with you always, **C: And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give Him thanks & praise.**

The Words of Institution

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.

Meal and Hymns: *(you may be seated)*

All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.

Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Vs 1: 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.

Vs 2: 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.

“We Are Waiting For Jesus”

Vs 1: We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace. Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in your promise. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

Vs 2: We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace. Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

“Christ Be Our Light” #715

Vs 1: Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Vs 2: Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow’r to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

Vs 4: Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Vs 5: Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. [Refrain]

Communion Prayer: *(Please stand as you are able)*

P: Let us pray,

C: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life & for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us and for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy and for sending us to serve the world in your name. Amen.

Blessing: P: 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. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn: *“Soon & Very Soon” #439*

Vs 1: Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Vs 2: No more cryin’ there we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Vs 3: No more dyin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

Vs 4: Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King! Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Dismissal: P: Go in peace, share your gifts! **C:** Thanks be to God!

Postlude



St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson

9:30AM • December 1, 2024

Prelude: *solo by Kayla Ryan*

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting: *(please stand as you are able)*

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.* God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority over your power and authority. When we grow fearful, we cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: Christ the Lord, our Savior, is incarnate among us. In Christ we have forgiveness of sin, mercy, and new life. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Jesus Christ, and be empowered to live new each day.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs 1, 2 #257*

Vs 1: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Vs 2: O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh; in strength & beauty come & stay; teach us your will & guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Advent Reflection: *read by Hayden Lodermeier (you may be seated)*

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language – the coming of Christ – because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of creation.

Advent Prayer: *read by Hayden Lodermeier*

Hope - Let us pray. Dear God, as we begin our advent pilgrimage, grant us the courage to hope. Hope for your presence, hope for your peace, hope for your promise. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles & Hymn: *“Light one candle to watch for Messiah” vs 1 #240*

Vs 1: Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.