



# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## Second Sunday in Advent

*December 8, 2024*

### **Our mission:**

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,  
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

**Welcome!** "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near!" John the Baptizer preached a message of repentance in preparation for the coming of Jesus. He called the rich and poor alike, the powerful as well as the lowly, to turn from their sins and put their trust in the LORD. Repentance is not complicated. It means simply to "turn". Turn away from a life of selfishness and sin, and turn toward Jesus as the only One who can deliver us from sin. But simple should not be confused with easy. Repentance is not easy. Standing in its way are the powerful forces of self-righteousness and self-service that don't like to be challenged. Like John's audience, we must ask ourselves, "What shall we do?" Then let the Holy Spirit and the Word guide us to the answer. Come, Lord Jesus!

**Welcome guests!** We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

**Communion Note:** We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

## *The Preparation*

**Prelude:** “Herr Christ, er einig Gottes Sohn” - J. G. Walther

### **Words of Welcome**

### **Invocation, Confession and Absolution**

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

(Silence for personal confession.)

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath Litany – see insert**

## *The Service of the Word*

### **Prayer of the Day**

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 Reading:** Malachi 3:1-7b (see back cover)

**Psalm:** Psalm 66:1-12 (spoken responsively)

P: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**C: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

P: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!

So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You.

**C: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You;  
they sing praises to Your name."**

P: Come and see what God has done:

He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

**C: He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.  
There did we rejoice in Him,**

P: who rules by His might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—  
let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

**C: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,**

P: who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

**C: For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.**

P: You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs;

**C: You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;  
yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.**

**All: 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**



FOR the WONDERS  
of THE COSMOS.

FOR the GIFTS THAT  
CROWN OUR DAYS.

FOR YOUR LOVE that  
CROWN'S CREATION.

WE YOUR PEOPLE—  
SING YOUR PRAISE

HERMAN A. STREIBER

**Epistle Reading:** Philippians 1:2-11 (see back cover)

**Advent Verse:** 357 vs 3-4 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 3:1-14

Acclamations (sung): **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.  
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed** (inside the back cover of the hymnal)

### Children's Sermon

**Hymn of the Day:** 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

### Sermon

**Prayers** After each petition of the prayer P: Lord in your mercy,  
C: **Hear our prayer.**

**Prayer Request List** (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

#### *For comfort:*

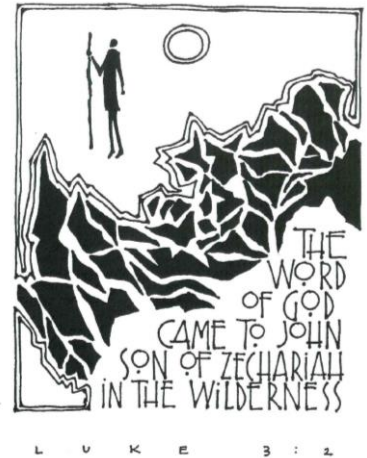
The Yoder family	Death of Betty	Yoder/Zelkovsky
The Gering/McCarthy families	Death of Larry	Dunbar

#### *For those with health concerns:*

Janis	Janice Nuneviller	Barbara	Carol Farley
Chris	Zane	Brennan	Valerie Nebbie
Beverly	Pete Serone	Carol Yost Band	Grant and Noah
Ursula	John O'Neil	Sid	Allison
Kay Compton	Claire	Rose	Lolly Hoagland
Cambria	Robert Bauer	John Tarlo	Steve Hauptman
Cpt. Carrick Porter	Gordon	Joe	Suzanne
Nicholas Wilhelm	Mariah Martinez	Gerry	Judy Nanni

#### *For those with cancer:*

Rosalie Reinbacher	Lance	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Dick Butterfoss
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jason	Kathy
Barbara	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Anne
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliand	Anna Mantel	Linda
Trudy	Kaleigh Moore	Steve Saumsiegle	Doris
Jane Fry	Jerry	Gerry Campbell	Brad Hoppe
Barbara Howard	Dottie	Dave Bond	William
Sonia	Barbara	Henry J.	Logan Mattessich
Linda	Karen Radcliffe	Marci Fehlhafer	Lexi Launchbaugh



***For those with needs around the world:***

Government officials and people of our nation	Prayers for peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Those coping with hurricane/drought/disaster	Prayers for provision and help
Those in need of employment	Provision of jobs
Wars in Europe and Middle East	Prayers for peace, forgiveness, and guidance
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	Prayers for health, safety, and provision

***For those serving in the armed forces:***

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Harper Usiskin	Jesse Sowell	Mike Bahney

***For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:***

For staff and families of the school	For enrollment
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**Birthdays:**

Bonnie Jean Gallagher	Dec 8	Sue Lauricella	Dec 12
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**Gathering of the Offering and Offertory** (p. 192)

**Instrumental Offertory** “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland” - W. Zachau

**Congregational Offertory:** “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.**

***The Service of the Sacrament***

**Order of Holy Communion** page 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with Thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God

C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right and salutary.... Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

C: *(sung)* **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

C: *(spoken)* **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Words of Institution (Consecration)

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

## Sharing of Christ's Peace

Agnus Dei page 198 (*sung*)

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; grant us Thy peace. Amen**

Distribution Hymn: 332 Savior of the Nations, Come

Post-Communion Canticle: Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace (p. 199 LSB)

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving page 200

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, C: **and His mercy endureth forever.**

P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving) C: **Amen.**

**Salutation and Benedicamus** page 201

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And with Thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction** page 202

P: The Lord bless you... C: **Amen, amen, amen.**

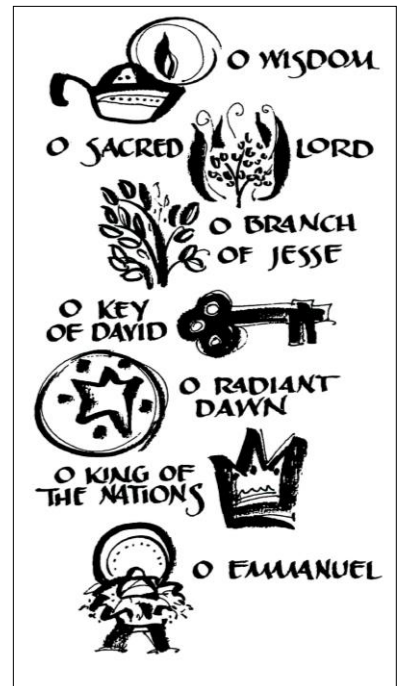
**Closing Hymn:** 936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel

## Announcements

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland" – J.S. Bach





## **Announcements – Week of December 8, 2024**

**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week**

**\*MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00\***

### **Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study**

**Welcome!** Serving in worship today are: Joe Scheblein (Communion assistant), Jane Heebner (Reading), Steve deDufour (Usher), Mark McAllister (Usher and Live-streaming), Andy Wright (Acolyte), Audrey deDufour and Leslie Klesat (Communion/coffee set-up and clean-up)

**Today's service will be live streamed** on You Tube at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/bMLSgaMyZzA> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

**Bible Study on Gospel of Luke.** This Sunday at 8:15am we continue a 12-week study of selections from Luke's Gospel. **Our study lesson for this Sunday will be Luke 1:26-56, "The Birth of Jesus Foretold"**. Like Zechariah before her, Mary could not fathom how God would bless her with a child while she was still a virgin. Yet she placed her faith in God's promise. Her visit to Elizabeth's home confirmed the miraculous intervention of the Holy Spirit in both of their lives, inspiring her to sing the Magnificat! What does God's choice of Mary tell us about what He values and how He still works out His plan of salvation today?

**After-Service Sermon Discussion today!** Join us after service in the fellowship hall for a lively discussion!

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Study.** Our Wednesday evening Bible study is now on break until January 8 of the New Year.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

TUESDAY (12/10)	6:00am Men's Breakfast @ Orlandos; 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
WEDNESDAY (12/11)	7:30pm Midweek Advent Service
SUNDAY (12/15)	8:15am SS/Bible Study; 9:30 Worship; 11:00 Discussion Group; 3:00pm Christmas Caroling; 6:30pm Impact Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington

### **Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry**

**Caroling for friends and shut-ins – Sunday, Dec 15, 3 pm.** Join us as we bless our shut-ins and friends of the congregation singing some familiar Christmas carols and spreading good cheer! All are welcome – let Pastor Jon know if you can come along! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

**Nursery School Crafts, Carols and Christ Party yesterday-** What a joyous event we had as we celebrated the Savior's birth with the nursery school students, families, and staff! Thanks to all who came to help and to enjoy this special occasion!

**Youth Candlelight Service Wednesday Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.** This year's final midweek Advent service will be led by the youth of our congregation. The group rehearsal for our service will be held after church on Sunday December 15th. Lunch will be provided. Please let Hope Dunbar know if you have a son or daughter interested in participating. All ages are welcome. Also, if you plan to prepare a musical piece, let Hope know that as well. There will be a group choir piece, but also many speaking parts to fill!

**The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry** is a prayerful ministry which reaches out to those in need of comfort, and also to share the joy of those celebrating a marriage or the birth of a child. Blessings are prayed into the items for the recipients. These items are meant to be given away unconditionally and are NOT to be sold. Since the beginning of the ministry in 2015, we have given away a total of 384 items which include shawls, lap blankets, baby caps, and baby blankets. In addition to individuals, we have contributed lap blankets and shawls to the Disabled American Veterans Hospital; baby caps to hospitals; fidget blankets to Alzheimer patients; and red, white and blue blankets to Hospice in honor of WWII veterans. Finally, we would like to thank those of you who have contributed to this ministry for the purchase of supplies.

**Prayer Chain.** The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

### *Service and Other*

**Christmas Poinsettias.** We will once again have red, white and pink poinsettias in front of the Christmas altar. If you would like to sponsor (\$10) one or more poinsettias there is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. You can take these home after the Christmas Day service.



**Opportunity to give toward Helene Disaster Relief through NJ District.** The NJ District continues to match dollar for dollar any individual/family gift given through the District up to \$250. A designation has been set up on the District website ([njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)) where people can give online. Once you are on the website scroll down and click on the "Give Now" button. Scroll down and click on the Hurricane Helene Disaster relief icon.

**Flowers.** If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to do so. Suggested donation is \$25. You may take the flowers home following the service on the day you select.

**Lambertville Food Pantry.** Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. ***SPECIAL NEED – toilet paper! December's collection is Baking and Cooking*** – flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, vinegar, baking powder, baking soda, spices...



**Faithfulness Report:** Attendance 11/27: 28      12/1: 62      Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$4188  
Debt reduction: \$75

**Website and Facebook.** Come online to check us out! Our website is at [www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org), and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church - the link is:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612>.

**Other Important web links:**

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)      NJ District LCMS [njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)  
LCMS World Relief and Human Care [lcms.org/ca/worldrelief](http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief)      The “Lutheran Hour” Broadcast [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)



**TAKE IT FURTHER: Today’s Distribution Hymn: 332 Savior of the Nations, Come**

*Savior of the Nations, Come* has a particularly long history in the church. The text was originally written in Latin, and dates back to the 300s! Its author is Ambrose of Milan (339/40 – 397), who is considered to be the “father of Latin hymnody,” because he “took over the Eastern custom of singing hymns and brought it to the West.” Many early Latin hymn writers copied his general pattern, producing what are known as “Ambrosian hymns” although he is not the author. There were several translations from Latin into the vernacular before the Reformation, but Luther himself did a quite literal translation in 1523 to be used specifically during Advent. It has been a traditional Advent hymn in the Lutheran church since that time.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 5-9

***Memory Verse Challenge: Philippians 1:9-10***

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...



*Advent and Christmas at St. Peter*

*December:*

*Wed 11 7:30 pm Midweek Advent Service*  
*Sun 15 3:00 pm Christmas Caroling for shut-ins/friends*  
*Wed 18 7:30 pm Youth-led Advent Service*  
*Tues 24 5:00/7:00 pm Christmas Eve Services*  
*Wed 25 10:00 am Christmas Day Service*



## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1–7b

<sup>1</sup>"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

### Epistle: Philippians 1:2–11

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

<sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1–14

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,  
<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

<sup>7</sup>He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin 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>9</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>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" <sup>11</sup>And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" <sup>13</sup>And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

WEEK 2

A  
Little Child  
SHALL  
Lead Them



Melody..... Hark, the Glad Sound

The Lord of love is born on earth  
To rescue souls from sin.  
His message for us to proclaim  
Is through him we will win.

- ℓ *The little Lord Jesus is coming with light to rid the world of the darkness of evil.*
- ☐ Our lives are brightened with his kindness and compassion.
- ℓ *All burdens that we carry are lifted up by the One who loves us to the end.*
- ☐ All glory be to Jesus Christ who stands in authority over earth and heaven in love.

Throughout the land, God's love is shown.  
His love dwells in our hearts.  
We nothing fear for Christ is here,  
A new life in us starts.

- ℓ *In love, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus.*
- ☐ In love, he chooses us to answer his call.
- ℓ *Christ Jesus fills our hearts with his good news that he is almighty and everlasting.*
- ☐ Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Carry with you the love of God's name  
And make all people know  
That from the heart of God above  
His grace shall overflow.

- ℓ *In a manger bed, the love of God will rest in straw.*
- ☐ In gratitude we give to God our praise for the love that crowns us all our days.

With love increase our joyful noise  
And multiply our peace.  
For Christ has come, and we will be  
Where pleasure will not cease.

*(Light two candles on the Advent wreath.)*

LEADING TO LOVE

*(Daily Bible readings for the second week in Advent.)*

Sunday.....	Isaiah 9:2-7
Monday.....	John 14:10-14
Tuesday.....	John 14:18-24
Wednesday.....	John 1:10-14
Thursday.....	James 5:7-11
Friday.....	Matthew 11:28-30
Saturday.....	Mark 2:13-17

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