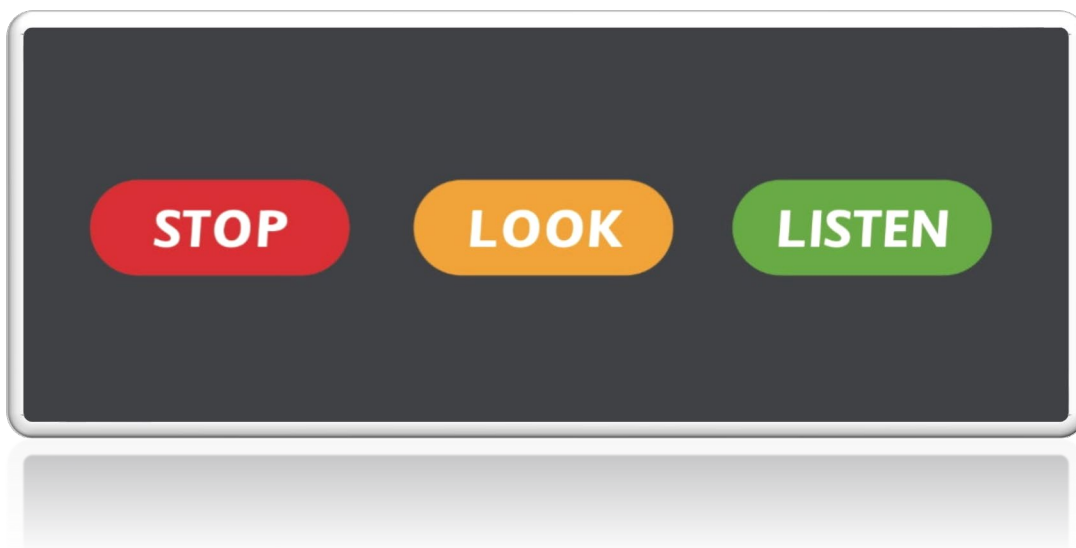


Midweek Advent Worship
Wednesday, December 20, 2023
11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.



Stop! Look! Listen!
And Prepare for the Coming of the Lord

As We Gather

In Mark 9:7, God the Father, told the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration that they were to LISTEN to Jesus, His Beloved Son! During this Advent season let us take time to listen to Jesus, the One who has come to save us from our sins. He reminds us to STOP sinning and do right and to LOOK as John the Baptist encouraged His disciples to do when Jesus was passing by! In our message today, God, the Father, was preparing the disciples for Jesus to go down the mountain before He was lifted up on the cross to suffer and die for our sins!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN, AGPS 163

“Light One Candle”

Light one candle for hope,
One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev’ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace,
One bright candle for peace,
He brings peace to ev’ry heart,
He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy,
One bright candle for joy,
Ev’ry nation will find salvation
in Bethl’em’s baby boy.



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INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

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 Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,

C **“Prepare the way of the Lord.”**

P All who wait for Jesus to return pray,

C **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

HYMN, LSB 357, stanzas 1, 6 & 7

“Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
by Thy draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain
Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Mighty God, You prepare a place for us in Your Father's kingdom and promise to all who trust in You the inheritance of life forever in Your presence. Help us to look to You and remember that in Christ alone we receive the fullness of who we are called to be; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING, Deuteronomy 6:3-9

Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that

I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

P This is Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P This is Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING, Mark 9:2-10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN, LSB 833

"Listen, God Is Calling"

Refrain
Leader All

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing Through the Word in - vit - ing,
Of - fer - ing for - give - ness, Com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

1 Je - sus gave His man - date: Share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten Through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, Stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*

That He came to save us _____ And set us free.
In the tri - une name of God Go and bap - tize.
Walk - ing in Your pre - cepts, — Led by Your Word.

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SERMON

“Listen!”

Pastor Bob Gehrke

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

This is a time that we, as a church family return a portion of the financial blessings God has given us. If you are our guests today, please do not feel obligated to participate. We have many ways to give your tithe or offering. You may place your offering in the plate when it is passed, mail it to the church, text-to-give by texting 84321 with any dollar amount (be sure to select “South Shore”), give online at sstwbl.org/give, or use the Church Center App from your smartphone (available for both Android and iOS). Disciples of Jesus at SST, please fill out an ivory SST Registration card and place in the offering plate.

Guests: If you would like more information regarding South Shore Trinity, please fill out a blue Guest Registration card before and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher before leaving.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P As we wait for You, O Lord, we pray for peace among nations, peace across the factions in our nation, peace in our households, and peace that surpasses human understanding in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Guide us to hear the voice of God in His Word when we struggle to believe, as did Zechariah. Lift us up by the hope that comes only in Christ and overcome our doubts. Humble us before You, that we may gratefully receive whatever You provide. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Fill Your whole Church with anticipation for that day when Christ will return and guide us to springs of living water and wipe away every tear from our eyes. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of this day now almost past. Forgive both what we have neglected to do and what we have done wrong. Hold our loved ones close to Your heart. Bless the work that we do as we use the talents and gifts You entrust to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heal the sick. Bless the dying. Uphold caregivers. Fill those who mourn with abundant hope through Christ's death and resurrection. Let all who suffer experience Your compassionate presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Accompany those who travel and those who work through the night to serve our community. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

(Additional prayers may be added.)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord for the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ. And let us rejoice in the fellowship of all the saints, entrusting ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P O God, as You called Mary, so You call us 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, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen!**

HYMN, LSB 349, stanzas 1,2 & 4

“Hark, the Glad Sound”

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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Serving Today

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bob Gehrke

Associate Pastor, Rev. Dan Bodin

Organist/Pianist: 11:00 & 6:30 Dr. Jeff Burkart

Live Stream Tech: 11:00 Jayne Kurpius

AV Tech: 11:00 Jayne Kurpius | 6:30 Jayne Kurpius & Kathy Meyer

Ushers: 11:00 Bob Dybdal | 6:30 Dan Wille

Free Food and Fellowship

Lunch is served every Wednesday (about 11:45) following the 11:00am Advent worship service.

A Fellowship Meal is served each Wednesday (at 5:45pm) before the Advent evening worship service. A free will offering will be taken.

December Worship Services

Saturday Evening, December 23 (Advent 4)

5:30pm Worship and Communion

Sunday Morning, December 24 (Advent 4)

9am Worship with Communion (note only one morning service)

Sunday Evening, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:00am Christmas Day Worship with Communion

Saturday, December 30

5:30pm Worship and Communion

Sunday Morning, December 31 (First Sunday after Christmas)

9:00am Worship with Communion

Sunday Evening, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

5:30pm New Year's Eve Worship with Communion
There is no New Year's Day service