

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKY
4 December
The Second Sunday in Advent

HYMNS: 12 13 2 622

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

M: I will send My messenger to prepare the way for Me.

C: Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to His temple.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord Jesus, for coming to bring God's salvation. Help us to prepare the way for Your coming. Amen.

INTROIT: Psalm 72:1-7

O God, give Your judgments to the king, and Your righteousness to the King's Son!

Let Him judge Your people with righteousness and Your poor people with justice!

May the mountains bring peace to the people and may the hills bring righteousness!

May He award justice to those who are poor among the people! May He save the children of needy people and crush the oppressor!

May they fear You as long as the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

May He come down like rain on mown grass, like showers that sprinkle the earth!

May the righteous person flourish in His days, and may there be widespread peace until the moon is no more!

COLLECT: 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 for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10 He will be fair in judging.

Romans 15:4-13 He will rule the Gentiles.

Matthew 3:1-12 He will clean up His threshing floor.

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ **A Shoot** will come **out of the stump of Jesse**, and a **Branch** from his roots will produce fruit. ² **The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him**, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of advice and power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. ³ He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what His eyes see or decide by what His ears hear. ⁴ However, **He will provide justice for** needy people by means of righteousness. He will rebuke fairly for humble people of the earth. **He will strike the earth** with the rod of His mouth. **He will kill wicked people with the breath of His lips.** ⁵ **Righteousness** will be **the belt** around His waist. **Faithfulness** will be the belt **around His hips.** ⁶ The wolf will live like a foreigner with the young ram; the leopard will lie down with the young goat. The calf, the young lion and the fattened steer will be together, and a little boy will lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear will graze together. Their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child will play near the hole of the cobra. The weaned child will put out his hand on the viper's nest-hole. ⁹ "People will not treat anyone badly or destroy anyone on My entire holy mountain." For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day **there will be a Root of Jesse, who will stand** as a flag for **the peoples. The nations will resort to Him, and** His resting-place will be glorious.

Romans 15:4-13

⁴ For all the things that were written long ago were written to teach us, so that we might have hope through the patient endurance and encouragement that the Scriptures give us. ⁵ May God, who gives you patient endurance and encouragement, give you harmony with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! ⁷ Therefore, receive one another, as Christ has also received you, to glorify God! ⁸ For I say that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, ⁹ so that

the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy, as Scripture has said: **“Therefore, I shall praise You among the Gentiles and sing psalms to Your name.”**

¹⁰ Again it says, **“Rejoice, you Gentiles, together with His people!”** ¹¹ Again: **“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples commend Him.”**

¹² Again Isaiah says, **“The Root of Jesse will come, even One who will arise to rule over the Gentiles. The Gentiles will hope in Him.”** ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe, so that you may be very hopeful, by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea:

² “Repent! For the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

³ He was the one about whom the prophet Isaiah spoke: **“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord! Make His paths straight!’”**

⁴ John himself used to wear clothes of camels’ hair and had a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan kept going out to him. ⁶ They were baptised by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. ⁷ When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he asked them: “You brood of poisonous snakes, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”

⁸ Therefore, produce fruit that is worthy of repentance! ⁹ Do not think that you can tell yourselves, ‘Abraham is our father’! For I tell you that God can raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ The axe has already been laid at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not produce good fruit is being cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ I baptise you with water to bring about a change of heart. However, the One who is coming after me is mightier than I am. I am not worthy to carry His sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² His winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean up His threshing floor. He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn the chaff with a fire that cannot be put out.”

A SHOOT AND ROOT FROM THE STUMP OF JESSE
Sermon for the 2nd Sunday in Advent, 2022
Isaiah 11:1-10

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is our First Reading from before Isaiah 11:1-10: **A Shoot will come out of the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will produce fruit.** ² **The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of advice and power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.** ³ **He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what His eyes see or decide by what His ears hear.** ⁴ **However, He will provide justice for needy people by means of righteousness. He will rebuke fairly for humble people of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth. He will kill wicked people with the breath of His lips.** ⁵ **Righteousness will be the belt around His waist. Faithfulness will be the belt around His hips.** ⁶ **The wolf will live like a foreigner with the young ram; the leopard will lie down with the young goat. The calf, the young lion and the fattened steer will be together, and a little boy will lead them.** ⁷ **The cow and the bear will graze together. Their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the ox.** ⁸ **The nursing child will play near the hole of the cobra. The weaned child will put out his hand on the viper's nest-hole.** ⁹ **“People will not treat anyone badly or destroy anyone on My entire holy mountain.”** For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ **On that day there will be a Root of Jesse, who will stand as a flag for the peoples. The nations will resort to Him, and His resting-place will be glorious.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth, Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

Notice how our text today starts with **“A Shoot will come out of the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will produce fruit”** and then closes with

“On that day there will be a Root of Jesse, who will stand as a flag for the peoples. The nations will resort to Him, and His resting-place will be glorious.”

What does all this mean?

Isaiah had lived 700 years before Christ, but this passage is a prophecy about Christ, and Isaiah is saying that the Messiah will be both the Shoot and the Root of Jesse and that He **“will produce fruit.”** This fruit will be a kingdom of life and peace for people around the world, for all of creation, for every one of us here today.

But, before we go further, we must ask, *“Who is this Jesse who is mentioned here? What does he have to do with anything?”* Jesse is not mentioned a whole lot in the Bible, but the few times he is, it is significant. Jesse’s claim to fame is that he is the father of David, the great king of Israel, and all the kings descended from David likewise come from his line.

That line of kings, David and Solomon and so on, lasted for about 400 years before it was cut off, at least as far as kings actively ruling in Jerusalem. Babylon had defeated Judah and carried the king off into exile. The physical line of descendants had continued, but they were no longer reigning as kings. Other powers had taken over and ruled over the Jews, first Babylon, then Persia, and later, Greece and Rome. So, the royal line of kings was cut off. It was like a tree that had been cut down. What was left looked just like a dead stump, so how could another king come from that dead stump? That’s what our text is saying when it says, **“the stump of Jesse.”** It’s looking to a time when the royal line would be cut off, cut down, and with no prospects for its revival.

Have you ever had to cut down a tree on your property? It may have been a beautiful tree, but it got a disease, and its branches died, and it had to be cut down. Just a stump was left. Now you would be amazed if, a number of years later, that dead stump could produce a living shoot to come forth and rise up and make a new and beautiful tree once again - let alone one even greater and more glorious than the one before. That would be astounding. But that’s what Isaiah is prophesying here with regard to the stump of Jesse. Listen: **“A Shoot will come out of the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will produce fruit.”** Out of what looks like a dead stump will come a new and living Shoot. Small at first, seemingly insignificant, but it will rise and become a fruitful tree.

This is a picture of the coming of the Christ. After close to 600 years of no Davidic king actively ruling, after 600 years of foreign domination, 600 years of the line of kings being reduced to a bunch of nobodies, after all that time of seeming deadness, there would come a lively little Shoot, in the form of a baby named Jesus. Springing up, barely noticed, would come a Shoot from the stump of Jesse. This would be the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy.

This King will come fully equipped, anointed with the Spirit of God in fullest measure: **“The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of advice and power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. ³ He will delight in the fear of the LORD.”** Wisdom and righteousness will rest on Him in abundance. His rule and His reign will be just and faithful. This Davidic King will always do the right thing.

The Christ, the Messiah, is coming. The Shoot from the stump of Jesse, coming when it looks like all hope had been lost long ago. That's how God works, bringing life out of death. Indeed, that is the pattern that will mark the reign of this coming King: life out of death when it looks like all hope has been lost. Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews will be nailed to a tree, the tree of the cross, a tree of death. His death would be the death of hope for His crushed disciples. They thought everything was over. But it was just the opposite: It was only the beginning. Life coming from out of death. Jesus' death has paid the price for our sins and has defeated all our enemies, including death. Christ's death has opened the way to life, and after three days in the tomb, He rises victorious and full of life. The cross of Christ is our tree of life.

And so Jesus Christ is the Shoot coming from the stump of Jesse, the restoration and revival of the royal line of David long dormant. But not only so. Not only is He the Shoot, but He is also the Root of Jesse. Our text says, **“On that day there will be a Root of Jesse, who will stand as a flag for the peoples. The nations will resort to Him, and His resting-place will be glorious.”**

What does it mean that Jesus Christ is not only the Shoot from Jesse but also the Root of Jesse? It means that He is the origin of the whole Davidic line - indeed, of Jesse himself. Jesse and David and Solomon, and all the rest have their source and their reason for being in Christ. This is the mystery of the person of Christ as both true God and true man. He is a descendant of David but also

David's Lord, both at the same time. Son of David and Son of God. He is both the origin and the offspring of the line of Jesse. Both Root and Shoot. The man who has died on the cross as the King of the Jews is the very Son of God who was with the Father in the beginning. The Shoot from the stump is, at the same time, the Root of the tree. This is the uniqueness of the person of Christ.

And notice the prophecy says the Shoot and the Root of "Jesse." It could have said "David," but instead, it takes it one step back further from David to Jesse. This is to say that the new King will not be just another descendant of David. It's saying He will be a whole new David, a new and eternal King, even better than David. A divine "restart," if you will. So many of the Davidic kings fell short, even David himself. But there are no mess-ups with this Messiah. This new King will surpass them all, far surpass them, and so will His kingdom far surpass theirs.

Here is where we can talk about the fruit that this King will bear - good fruit, sweet fruit, coming from this righteous branch. The Messiah's fruit will be seen in the kingdom over which He will reign. Two things here: One is that His kingdom will be a "peaceable kingdom." The other is that His kingdom will include the Gentiles, the nations. And both of these things mean life for you and me.

First, the peaceable kingdom: **"The wolf will live like a foreigner with the young ram; the leopard will lie down with the young goat. The calf, the young lion and the fattened steer will be together, and a little boy will lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear will graze together. Their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child will play near the hole of the cobra. The weaned child will put out his hand on the viper's nest-hole. ⁹ "People will not treat anyone badly or destroy anyone on My entire holy mountain."**

This vision has enchanted poets and artists for millennia. Wolf and young ram, leopard and goat, calf and lion, lying down together. No more hurting or harming, no more violence or death. Man and beast dwelling in harmony. A return to the Garden, and then some. Paradise restored. This peaceable kingdom is the fruit that the Shoot of Jesse will bring. Creation itself will be brought back in order. Life will be lived the way it was meant to be, **"For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."**

What a joyous occasion to look forward to! And we shall be there! Christ's peaceable kingdom will include forgiven sinners like you and me! No more sinful nature to lead us astray. No more powers of Satan to oppress us. No more violence or persecution, no more conflict or terror, no more disease or disorder or death. Only life and peace and the knowledge of God, as far as the eye can see.

And this kingdom will include not only Israel but the people of God from every tribe and nation and language and people. **“On that day there will be a Root of Jesse, who will stand as a flag for the peoples. The nations will resort to Him, and His resting-place will be glorious.”** In his Letter to the Romans, from our Second Reading for today, Paul cites this same passage from Isaiah to make the point that the coming King is coming for the Gentiles, too: *“The Root of Jesse will come, even One who will arise to rule over the Gentiles. The Gentiles will hope in Him”* (15:12). That means all of us! We are those Gentiles whose hope is found in the Root of Jesse! And Christ is coming, coming again, to bring our hope to sight.

Today Isaiah is pointing us to Jesus Christ as the fulfilment of his prophecy and the answer to our prayer. Christ is both Shoot and Root. Jesus is the Shoot from the stump of Jesse, the Shoot springing up from what looked like the dead stump of the Davidic line. Jesus is the One who brings life out of death. From the cross and tomb, our Lord and Saviour arises to bring us life.

And this Shoot from the stump of Jesse is also its Root. Christ, the Son of God, is the origin and source of the line of kings that leads to Him. A new and greater David brings in an even greater kingdom, the peaceable kingdom of paradise restored. A kingdom that extends even to us Gentiles. An everlasting kingdom that will include all those who hope in Christ as their Saviour. Yes, this is the fruit coming from the One who is both the Shoot and the Root of Jesse. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Lord God, we praise You that You reckon us as blameless in Your sight because of Jesus' obedience for us. We praise You for Your commandments, so that we may love with right knowledge, and for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask You to bless all who preach, teach, read, and study Your Word, that more and more people may know the Gospel message of joy and hope.

Refine our hearts, so that we may prepare a smooth way for the Lord in them. Give us stronger faith, joy and confidence, and grant that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Enable us to trust You firmly, to worship You with pure hearts, to serve You with clean hands, to obey You with will-ing minds, and to love You with our whole beings.

Guard us, that Satan, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us, or lead us into error, unbelief, and sin. Do not let us lose the inheritance that You have graciously promised to those who know You in faith. Teach us to watch and pray at all times. We praise You that You have enabled us to stand with joy and confidence before the Son of Man when He comes in glory to judge the living and the dead. Therefore send us Your Spirit so that we strive to be blameless in our love for each other, to grow in it, and to practise it with sensitivity and insight.

Rid Your church of that all that is divisive, evil, and wrong, that all who profess Your name may serve You in truth, purity, and loyal devotion.

Give peace and stability to the nations on earth. Put down all evil rulers, and raise up leaders who will rule and serve us according to Your good pleasure.

May Jesus rule in the hearts of all parents and children. Supply the spiritual needs of all families, so that truth, love, and high morals may bless our homes.

Be with all people everywhere, in all situations and circumstances of life. Give healing to the sick, comfort to the sorrowing, guidance to the young, hope to the aged, comfort to the bereaved, and wisdom to the perplexed.

Lead us to continue to look to Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. Help us to wait in joyful hope for His second Coming, when He will receive us, and all others who believe in Him, into Your eternal presence. This we pray in His holy name. Amen.

Article Jesus is God's Anointed, the Messiah, the Christ

In an elaborate ceremony, God had Moses ordain Aaron and his sons as priests in Israel (Lev 7:35-36). They were to serve before the Lord in the worship at the tabernacle. When Aaron was about to die, his garments were placed on his son, Eleazar, who was set aside to take his place (Num. 20:28). Only the appointed priests were to serve before the Lord. Only they were set aside and equipped by God for that service.

Every prophet, priest, and king who was anointed in the Old Testament was a picture of the Messiah, the Christ, the one God anointed, or set aside and equipped, to be our Prophet, Priest, and King. As the psalmist had foretold, *“Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever. The sceptre of Your Kingdom is a sceptre of uprightness. You love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore, God, Your God, has anointed You more than Your companions, with the Oil of Joy”* (Psalm 45:6-7). The writer to the Hebrews tells us that this prophecy was fulfilled in Christ (Heb. 1:8-9).

God set Jesus aside to be our Prophet, Priest, and King. Jesus indicated this when he quoted Isaiah's prophecy, *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me because the LORD has anointed Me to tell good news to poor people. He has sent Me to bandage up broken-hearted people, to announce freedom to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to announce the year of the favour of the LORD”* (Is. 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19). Then Jesus said, *“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”* (Luke 4:21). Peter declared that Jesus is God's anointed (Acts 4:27; 10:38). The name the Christ, which Jesus received, indicates He is God's anointed.

God also equipped Jesus, according to His human nature, with every gift the Holy Spirit had to give. Jesus did not receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a limited way, as did others. He received them without measure (Is. 11:2; John 3:34). A public certification of this took place at Jesus' baptism. There the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove and sat on him. God the Father said from heaven, *“...This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased”* (Matt. 3:17). This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Messiah: *“Here is My Servant, whom I support, My Chosen One, in whom I delight! I have put My Spirit on Him. He will bring righteousness to the nations”* (Is. 42:1).

Jesus is God's anointed, the Messiah, the Christ. The Old Testament prophecies indicated that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah. When Jesus said and did what the Old Testament foretold of Him, it was the Scriptures themselves that confirmed Jesus as God's anointed (Matt. 11:1-6).

Children's Message: Where the Mild Things Are

I am sure you all have some animal friends. Not the real ones! (Although I am sure you have them too). But teddy bears, or other stuffed animals that is your favourite one to cuddle up to. And I am sure you have a name for each of your animals.

Now what do you think would happen if all your stuffed animals were all real animals where the sheep and the wolf were in the same paddock together? Do you think the wolf would play nice with the sheep? No, the wolf would probably hurt the sheep. Wolves often attack sheep in real life. What do you think would happen if the cow and the lion got close to each other? Do you think the lion would play nice with the cow? No, the lion would probably attack the cow. Lions like to eat cows. How about a dog and a cat? That's right, a dog would probably chase the cat. That's just what dogs do.



In today's Old Testament Reading from the Book of Isaiah, God told His people that something very special would happen one day. He said that there would come a day when wolves and sheep would play together; when lions would eat grass and not attack other animals; when even little children could play with snakes and not worry about getting bit.

Sounds pretty amazing, doesn't it? This is what Jesus came to do - to change the world and make it a place where instead of animals and even people hurting one another, animals and people would play nice and love one another. We know the world is not the way God wants it to be. You and I don't always act toward each other the way God wants us to act. The world and you and I are not the way we're supposed to be because of sin. But Jesus came to take the world's sin away. He died for our sin on the cross. And now He forgives us and gives us a new heart, a heart that wants to do the things that make God happy.

Now, wolves are still mean to sheep and dogs still chase cats, but you and I are already different. In our Baptism, God made us new people. We still make mistakes and sin, but whenever we come to Jesus with our sins, He forgives us, and the Holy Spirit helps us to love others the way God loves us. Then one day Jesus is going to take us to be with Him in heaven, where all people and animals get along! He promises. *Thank You Jesus, for taking away my sin, so that I may come to live with You in heaven. Amen.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTSCOMING SERVICES

11 December 3 Advent	18 December 4 Advent	24 & 25 December Christmas
8.30am OAK LR 8.30am TMBA HC (note time) 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am GRN PR Harvest Festival & Baptism 7.00pm MARBURG Children's Christmas Program	8.30am OAK LR 9.00am TMBA LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 9.00am MARBURG HC	Christmas Eve: 7.30pm OAK HC CHRISTMAS DAY 7.30am LOWOOD HC 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR 10.15am TMBA HC
Sunday, 11 December		
READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-15		
HYMNS: 15 17 739 (325 290) 510 GRN: 276 15 809 (from the LSB) 17		
Sunday, 18 December		
READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-17; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25		
HYMNS: 6 28 33 (842 289) 633		

CAROLS EVENINGS:

Saturday, 17 December, 7.30pm, Trinity Oakey

Sunday, 18 December, 7.00pm, Bethlehem Toowoomba

Saturday, 10 December, 10.30am. The bookclub are meeting at the manse. Members, remember, we were to read up to page 69.

Please take home with you today a copy of the latest COC minutes and the Newsletter.

Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au.

Weekly Sunday School lessons are also now available in the Members section.

If there are any late changes to be made to divine services, these will be listed immediately on the website, and a text sent out to members. *If you are unsure, please contact pastor.*