



About the Cover

From his clothing to his diet, John certainly stood out as his voice echoed in the wilderness. However, John's voice did not stand out because of him. His call to repent was all about preparing the way for Christ, the stand-alone Savior of the world. For Christ alone is the one who has taken all of our sins upon Himself and atoned for them on the cross.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1–10

- ¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Epistle: Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

¹⁰And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1–12

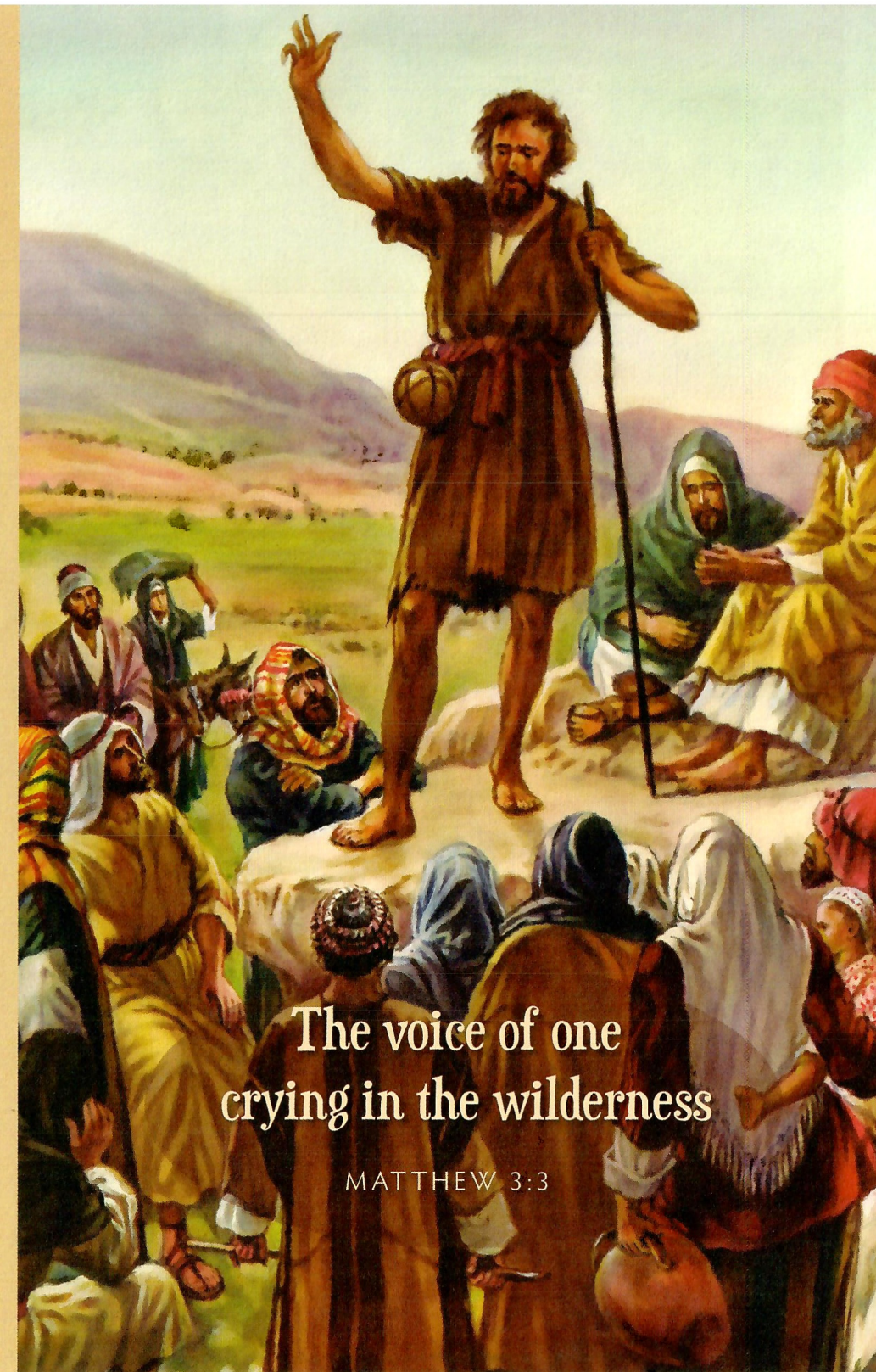
¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰Even 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.

¹¹"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 with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



The voice of one
crying in the wilderness

MATTHEW 3:3

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 7, 2025

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Rev. Terry L. De Giovanni Pastor

Welcome to Our Visitors

We pray all will be spiritually enriched by your visit to this "House of God." Here Christ breaks the silence that surrounds mortal man in his sin and death. Here in Christ Jesus, we hear the voice of the Eternal One, and hear the voice of the Father, and that He loves us, that He forgives us and that in the resurrection of Christ, He has made us His Children and has given us victory over death itself.

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

Liturgy – Divine Service III Pages 184-202

Ringling of the Bells, Welcome, and Announcements

Opening Hymn LSB#350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Confession – Absolution Pages 184-185 (right side)

The Introit:

P: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

C: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!

P: Remember the wonderful works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

C: O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

P: He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

C: He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

C: 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.

P: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

The Kyrie Page 186

The Hymn of Praise O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**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 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!**

The Salutation and Collect of the Day Page 189

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 (see back of bulletin)

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

The Gradual: (spoken by the Pastor)

The Epistle Romans 15:4-13 (see back of bulletin)

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

The Triple Alleluia Page 156

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The Apostle's Creed Page 192

The Children's Message

The Hymn of the Day LSB#355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

The Sermon Evergreens Hosea 14:4-8

The Receiving of the Offerings

The Offertory Pages 192-193

The Prayer of the Church Response:

P: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: Hear our Prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction Page 202

Closing Hymn LSB#333 Once He Came in Blessing

**Saturday Evening Worship: 5:00 PM.
Holy Communion First and Third Saturdays
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 AM
Holy Communion: Second and Fourth Sundays
Sunday School 8:45 AM**