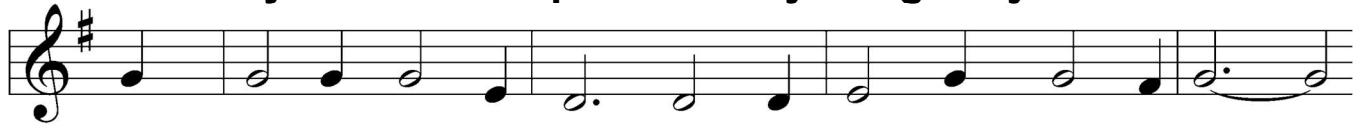


Pastor's Bible Study
December 3rd, 2025 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

Hymn 343 – Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound-ing For kind-ness so a - bound-ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

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Read Isaiah 11:1-10:

- 1) Isaiah 1:1 can be seen as the title of the book of Isaiah why is this first verse helpful for our text?
- 2) Turning to Isaiah 11:1, what does this imagery point to?

- 3) Are there other verses that point to this theme too? How? (cf. vv. 6-8)
- 4) Isaiah 11:2 could be somewhat confusing, what does it mean that the “Spirit of the Lord” rests upon Jesus Christ, who already is Lord?
- 5) Isaiah 11:3-5 is a description of what? Why would this be refreshing? (cf. 2 Kings 14:1-4; 15:1-4, 32-35; 16:1-4; 18:1-4)
- 6) Isaiah 11:10 is referenced in the epistle reading Romans 15:4-13 (see v. 12), how does Paul make use of the image of Christ as the “root of Jesse”?

Read Matthew 3:1-12:

- 1) How did John the Baptist’s short sermon, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” fulfill Isaiah’s prophesy in verse three? In other words, how does repentance prepare the way of the Lord?
- 2) John’s scolding of the Pharisees and Sadducees shows us what about true repentance?
- 3) What does John’s location and attire add to his message?
- 4) John baptizes for repentance how does this relate to Jesus’ baptism?

Devotional Thought:

John was a preacher of repentance, as was Martin Luther, who often emphasized that we believers must not only sincerely confess our sins but also be certain of forgiveness. Thank God for such preachers (*TLSB*, 1582).

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Burn my chaff, but quench my sinful passions in the daily washing of Holy Baptism. Amen.