

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church-WELS**  
**Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz**  
**Advent 2 A. December 5, 2010 Isaiah 11:1-10**



<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup>In 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.

Children of our Heavenly Father – precious in his sight for Jesus' sake:

I was listening to the radio the other day – and they were talking about a young man with a Bible name – who lives in the city far north central – in Illinois. I thought to myself – I've been there! Daniel was injured in a terrible car accident when he was only 3 years old. Ever since then he has been paralyzed from the neck down. That means he can't control his arms – can't control his legs – can't even breathe without a machine breathing for him. Daniel lives at home with his mom. He can see and hear and speak. He can work a computer – with a little stick in his mouth to punch the keys. He can eat and drink – watch TV – talk to people on the phone – have company. Daniel is in the news because he wants the Hospital to turn off his ventilator – which humanly speaking would end his life. Daniel says he finds no pleasure in his life – because he has no friends – no prospect of finding love – finds no joy in anything! He says at the age of 27 he wants to die. And nobody else could possibly know how painfully difficult his life has been! Mr. Jonathan Green talked to Daniel on the phone – and said – he didn't know why Daniel should choose life over death – but he was confident the Christians who listened to his program would know what to say! *What do you say?* What would you tell Daniel? I would not presume to know how painfully difficult it must be to be paralyzed from the neck down. But I have visited people in incredible pain with unspeakable physical injuries. What sustained them was Jesus' unconditional love. Jesus died to wash away all our sins. It is Jesus' love then and his powerful practical Gospel promises that give us the strength one day at a time not only to survive but to thrive with the ultimate confidence that in His time--Jesus will bring us home to heaven where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain--where Jesus will make everything new! You cannot compare the most difficult suffering here to the joy and peace we will know there! I am praying for Daniel--that like Daniel in the lions' den he will make it through this time of terrible darkness into the light of Jesus' love! Today – this second Sunday in Advent God's Word is both admonition and encouragement:

## Jesus Is The Prince of Peace

1. He will have incredible gifts/abilities
2. He will bring incredible peace

The part of God's Word we are concentrating on—is from the Scroll of the Prophet Isaiah. We are used to hearing from Isaiah—during Advent and during Lent. Isaiah—inspired by the Holy Spirit—paints some of the most powerful and graphic pictures of all Jesus did to redeem us! <sup>2</sup> **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.** <sup>3</sup> **You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.** <sup>4</sup> **For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.** <sup>5</sup> **For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.** <sup>6</sup> **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** <sup>7</sup> **Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.** Isaiah 9:2-7 Isaiah wrote about Jesus' passion as if an eye witness to his death. <sup>1</sup> **Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?** <sup>2</sup> **For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.** <sup>3</sup> **He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.** <sup>4</sup> **Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.** <sup>5</sup> **But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.** <sup>6</sup> **All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.** <sup>7</sup> **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.** <sup>8</sup> **By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?** <sup>9</sup> **And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.** Isaiah 53:1-9 Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent—Church—devotions, sermons, Bible Class—God's Word—Old and New Testament is all about **Christ crucified** and risen. It's about the forgiveness of all our sins. It's about redemption—being saved by grace through faith! Our focus and our emphasis needs to be Jesus and his cross and his empty tomb!

<sup>1</sup>**There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse...** Stumps—old, dead rotting tree stumps. Drive through Watertown and you will see those little yard signs that advertise *stump removal*. What good is an old tree stump? A place to sit? I will never forget the guy by Dundee who was going to walk home through the snow—in the cold. I can do this—I can do this by myself he said. He started out strong—walking for miles—one step at a time. He stopped part way—at a bar—to warm up—to have a little brandy. People said just stay here. It's too cold. It's too far! I can do this—I can do this by myself he said! Out into the cold again he went. It was snowing harder. The wind was blowing harder. It was harder to see but he kept on

going. He got a little off the track. He finally was so tired – he decided to just sit down – to rest for just a little. He was getting tired. He yawned. He was getting sleepy. He would just sit down on that old stump. Brush off the snow – and sit for just a minute or two – to catch his breath! That’s where they found him – sitting there – with little icicles from his hair and his beard – frozen stiff. I can do this – I can do this by myself – people say. I don’t need to go to church. I don’t need a Savior. I’m a good person. I help my neighbor – I do! I shovel snow for the little widow woman next door! I bake cookies and give them away! I put money in the kettle to help the less fortunate! I give groceries to hungry people and coats and mittens to little children who are poor. I recycle! I cut up those plastic things that come around soda cans and I cut up my little yogurt cups – so ducks and geese don’t get stuck in them! I’m certainly a much nicer person than some people I know! That’s the opinion of the law that is in all our hearts if the truth be told. The stump of Jesse – looked as good as dead. The glory days of good King David were long gone. **<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him...** When, humanly speaking all hope was gone – the Christ-child would be born. The little Lord Jesus would be born into this world – to establish his eternal kingdom. He would rule in the hearts and lives of all believers – and ultimately to rule forever in all the glory of Heaven!

**The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth...** Jesus is the Son of God made flesh! His heart and mind is full of the Holy Spirit – which means divine and holy and complete **wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the love** of his Heavenly Father! Jesus is the Son of God! That means he doesn’t do things like people do! Jesus does not judge by outward appearances. That’s what sinful people do. We look at someone – look them up and down and decide – on the basis of the outside – you have very nice clothes on – drive a very expensive car – live in a very expensive home – you must be very rich, very successful, very happy – someone to be envied! You look at someone – they have clothes that are a poor fit – they drive a beater car – live in a small apartment – they must be poor – not very successful, pretty miserable. Really? I know people who live in Africa and in Peru and on the Island of Antigua – who have the clothes on their back – who live in homes literally made of mud – who don’t have 50¢ – who have Jesus in their heart – who have riches in Heaven. And I know people with more money than they know what to do with – who are beautiful on the outside – and painfully unbearably miserable on the inside – who look like they have it all – and don’t know Jesus loves them. And they will be if nothing changes – eternally miserable! Jesus doesn’t judge by the outside. That’s why it doesn’t matter what clothes we wear or what kind of vehicle we drive – or how many square feet out home is. All that matters is Jesus’ unconditional forgiving love in our hearts! That’s all that matters – what’s inside! And Jesus knows!

**<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain...** How can you explain how wonderful it will be in heaven? It will be perfect peace and safety. People continue to find new ways to die. Just the other day a guy named Maurice – 42 years old – down on his hands and knees – pulling weeds – at a golf course. A

golfer teed off – some 30 yards away. The golf ball hit Maurice – right upside the head – and killed him! A guy named Paschal – just 39 years old – had just won a motorcycle race in Dubai. Paschal was slowing down – savoring the moment – when another racer going some 124 mph smashed into him and killed him! Or there was a guy – perhaps trying to slip behind a barrier to smoke a cigarette at Soldiers Field during a Bears game – fell and died! Everyone said he was a nice guy – a *good egg* – who used to stack up sofas to make kind of like stadium seating at home to watch the NFL. We could die – any time – almost anywhere! Whenever we die – we will know the rest and peace of Heaven – like when all the animals – the most fierce – and the lambs and sheep and little goats – the most harmless – will be all safe together. How wonderful will that be?

I'm sitting writing my sermon. I have a radio station on – playing Christmas music from the Monday before Thanksgiving through Christmas. They have some famous singer say, "*Christmas is the best! You get to spend time with the people you love – and you can get drunk – and nobody can say anything!*" Really? Where does it say that? Christmas is about God's forgiving love for Jesus' sake. Christmas is about the Son of God – made flesh to take our sin and guilt away. Christmas is about Good Friday and Easter! It's about the Prince of Peace who was born to make peace between a holy Heavenly Father and fallen people. We have peace with God because Jesus died and rose again to forgive us. We thank him today in Church – and soon – perhaps very *very* soon we will praise him forever in Heaven. Amen!



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