

Isaiah 11:1-10  
“His Will -- Forward”  
Advent 2 Mid-week

December 13, 2017  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Rev. Brent Hartwig

Grace, Mercy, and Peace be unto you from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior and God our Heavenly Father. Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

**[Introduction]**

If you want R-rated evidence of the fall into sin, just turn on your television. No need to flip the channel to a raunchy reality show or drama filled drama. Just tune into *Animal Planet*.

- Sit back and watch the wolf stalk, snatch, and rip a young lamb’s body to shreds.
- Gaze at the lion’s face smeared crimson with the blood of the week-old gazelle.
- See the viper lash out and sink its fangs into a cute bunny, fire its venom, and painstakingly swallow its victim.

There’s a reason we call them *wildlife*

—they truly represent that which is wild and untamed, outside man’s control.

**[We are Wilder]**

Though they were created to be ruled by Adams and Eves, they often maul their would-be overlords.

They live by instinct, not conscience.

They prey on the weak.

They fight to survive.

Nature’s motto is not “live and let live” but “kill to live.”

And because of that, there is hardly a better image of who you really are.

For what the cat does to the mouse,

what the eagle does to the rabbit,

is what we do with our words and actions

as playfully or violently we rip apart the lives of others and gnaw on their bones.

Oh, how we intentionally, even unintentionally, hurt one another!

***“The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand,”*** says our God (Is 1:3 ESV).

So, the painful truth .....is that we are worse than the animals.

Think about this....

To call our loveless, meaningless actions “beastly” is actually an insult to the beasts. At least most of them kill for food, for their own survival.

We slice up the babe in the womb for convenience’s sake.

We stab each other in the back for humor’s sake.

We rip reputations to shreds with our gossiping tongues for pleasure’s sake.

And though we purr out outward piety for all to hear,  
inside us lurks a lion that is eager to devour.

The old animal within cannot be domesticated; he can only be killed.

### *[Overcoming Wildlife]*

It is good to have Advent before Christmas.

What good is the Babe to those who think they are good in and of themselves?

As he lies in the manger—that dining table of beasts—he shows us for whom he came.

He came for you, Adam, and for you, Eve, who abound “animalistically.”

As he lies in the manger—He is there as food for you.

So repent—today is the day of salvation, the season of repentance.

His Advent is near, his Advent is now. Repent and believe.

In his first Advent,

in David’s neck of the woods,

he came forth,

a shoot from the stump of Jesse.

For over five hundred years David’s throne sat cold and vacant.

His line was mown down by the Babylonian chainsaw;

only a seemingly lifeless stump remained.

But such “impossible” situations are God’s favorite arenas of activity.

For when God begins something, it always seems as if nothing will come of it.

And so it was, from virgin soil, Jesse’s root emerged as Jesse’s shoot.

God became man while yet remaining God.

This Son of David, Son of Adam, Son of God—he came for you.

His advent landed him within the zoo of this world—no, actually worse than a zoo.  
More like within a cage overrun with wild, rabid beasts!

Yet still for us—wild and untamed in heart—still for us he came.

*[Lamb Changed Us]*

The Spirit rests upon him, a perfect Spirit, the sevenfold Spirit of God.

The Spirit rests upon him to bring the six days of the original creation  
to its goal in the new creation.

New Adam, new genesis, new you.

This Spirit of the Lord overcomes our worldly spirits.  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding replaces our foolishness and idiocy.  
The Spirit of counsel and might overpowers our deception and weakness.  
The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord conquers our ignorance.

He hovers over the living waters of the font to re-create us  
as sons and daughters of the heavenly Father.

The Spirit who came upon the Son in the form of a dove  
now builds its nest within the branches of your soul.

Before this Son you stand.

As the New Adam, he is your brother;  
as the New David, he is your king.

He judges you not by what his eyes see or what his ears hear.  
He judges you with righteousness and equity.

And though you are guilty, for your sake he takes the blame.

On your behalf the rod of punishment leaves welts in his back.

The belt of righteousness about his waist,  
the belt of faithfulness around his loins

—these he removes and wraps around you.

And your tattered rags of infidelity and  
unrighteousness

he ties around himself.

You become what he is, as he becomes what you are.

You switch places, like *Freaky Friday* or so many other movies,  
so that all the good he has is yours and all the bad you have becomes his.

In this great exchange, this gracious substitution,  
You have been made new, re-created in the image of him who is peace and love.

All this is true not because we are perfect in and of ourselves,  
but because we have been dressed up in the perfection of him  
who has been perfect for us.

Blessed are you....

This is the will of God – good and gracious will of God.  
So we pray, “Thy will be done,”  
for according to his will, your sins are forgiven;  
your place in God’s family is safe and secure.

His Advent has won all this for you. Amen.

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“Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good that you may do his will,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Heb 13:20-21)

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