



St. Luke Lutheran Church
Pastor Eric Hanson
9:30AM • December 12, 2021

Prelude *Pianist, Debbi St. John*

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting *(please stand as you are able)*

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, & the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: In Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ. Let us open our hearts to God's mercy. Almighty God,

C: **We confess that we have sinned against you, and against our brothers and sisters. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us.**

P: Children of God, the advent of Christ brings the promise of grace. Through Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Live reconciled to each other. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: *(you may be seated)* "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 5, 6 #257

**Vs 5: O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

**Vs 6: O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer, O Sun of justice,
now draw near Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.**

Advent Reflection: *read by Haley Gravemann* We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us – in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations or our memories push joy aside? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Advent Prayer: *read by Haley Gravemann* Joy - Dear God, in the height of our advent walk, grant us the courage to experience joy. Joy in the face of apathy, joy in the face of sorrow, joy in the face of uncertainty. Amen.

Lighting of Advent Candle & Hymn: "Light one candle to watch for Messiah" vs. 3 #240

**Vs 3: Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

First Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-20 ¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." ¹⁸ "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. ¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. ²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: "Celtic Alleluia" *(Stand as you are able)* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. 2X

Gospel Reading - Luke 3:7-18 ⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. ¹¹John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" ¹³"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. ¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely — be content with your pay." ¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

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

Children's Message: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Sermon: *Rev. Barb Streed*

Hymn of the Day: *"When He Cometh"*

Offering plates are passed during the Hymn of the Day. Thank you to those who give through Online Giving. To sign up for online giving, please visit our website at <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/index.html> and click the Online Giving button. St. Luke thanks you for your gifts.

**Vs 1: When He cometh, when He cometh To make up His jewels,
All His jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own.**

**Refrain: Like the stars of the morning, His brightness adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty, Bright gems for His crown.**

**Vs 2: He will gather, He will gather The gems for His kingdom;
All the pure ones, all the bright ones, His loved and His own. [Refrain]**

**Vs 3: Little children, little children, Who love their Redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own. [Refrain]**

Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, & was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, & he will come to judge the living & the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, & the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers: *(call and response) read by Tris Danielson*

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. *A brief silence.* Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day especially: Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Dean Kirkland, Finley Budensiek, Sara Nolte, Mark Jacobson, Deb Huneke, Jill Louise Plank, Gabriel Ryan, Roger Kurtti, Ross Schrimpf, Judy Carpenter, Blake Carlson, Joan Quiggle, Donald & Nancy Nord, Josh & Brooke Budensiek family, Rick Buck and Ben Haenel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace: L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

Ushers bring offering forward.

Offertory Prayer: God of our waiting & watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts & our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: L: The Lord be with you C: And also with you L: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord. L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: It is right to give Him thanks & praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Meal & Hymns: *"Jesus, Lamb Of God"*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Prayer: P: Blessed Jesus,

C: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Solo: *"Silent Night"* sung by Aleaha Hanson

Blessing: *(Please stand as you are able.)*

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Sending: *"Joy to the World"* #267

Verse 1: Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 2: Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains. Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3: No more let sin and sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow. Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4: He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal: L: The world waits for Christ. You are the body of Christ. Go be His hands & feet. C: Thanks be to God!

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