



St. Luke Lutheran Church • 8:30AM • December 13, 2020 The 3rd Sunday in Advent

Prelude: *"Prepare Ye the Way" 2X* written by Debbi St. John

Prepare ye the way for the Savior is coming; prepare ye the way for the babe in the stall.
Prepare ye the way, for the Savior is coming. He is coming to bring salvation to us all.

Greeting: L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand as you are able)*

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. C: **Amen.**

L: The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy. *Silence for reflection and self examination.*

L: Almighty God,

C: **We confess that we have sinned against you, and against our sisters and brothers. 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. Amen**

L: In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you, and forgives you all your sins. C: **Amen.**

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

**Verse 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.**

Verse 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 Michael Roschen* 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 to the side? 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 Michael Roschen*

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 Candles & Hymn: "Light one candle to watch for Messiah" vs. 3 #240

**Verse 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.**

Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway" #264

Verse 1: Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Verse 2: God's people, see him coming; your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout & sing! God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! [refrain]

Verse 3: Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him: their voices join your singing: [refrain]

Verse 4: His is no earthly kingdom: it comes from heav'n above. His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: [refrain]

Prayer of the Day: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *read by Henry Ludwig*

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed; to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples, all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

L: The holy gospel according to.... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28 *(Please stand as you are able)*

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon: (you may be seated)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Christ Be Our Light" #715

**Verse 1: Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

**Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

Verse 2: Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

Verse 3: Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

Verse 4: Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Verse 5: Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. [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)

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. *A brief silence.* God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing, especially for; Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Dan Ramthun, David Roschen, Jim Howard, Brad Roschen, Naomi Berland, Nathlye Benrud, Donald Hadler, Nancy & Donald Nord, Dean Kirkland, Marlene & Lloyd Roschen, Finley Budensiek, Hunter Burow, Cassidy Post, Brent Hokanson & Karl Thomforde. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Offering & Doxology: "Praise Him, Praise Him All Ye Little Children" vs.1

Verse 1: Praise Him praise Him All ye little children, God is love God is love Praise Him praise Him,
All ye little children God is love God is love

Offertory Prayer:

P: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. C: **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 and praise.**

Salutation

Hymn: "Away In The Manger" #277

Verse 1: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Verse 2: The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; Look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Verse 3: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay. Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

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; & forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; & lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, & the power, and the glory, forever & ever. Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. 2X

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

Communion Blessing and Communion Prayer: Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. C: Amen.

Blessing (please stand as you are able)

L: May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Joy to the World"

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: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.
C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

"Go In Peace" 3X written by Debbi St. John

Go In Peace And serve the Lord your God. Sow the seeds about the man of love.
Go into the world and tell them One by one. Go tell them what Jesus has done

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