



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

Bethany, Kenny and Ellie Vokac

Use this blessing when lighting three candles.

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy your hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,
**let us travel on God's holy way
and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.**



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ADVENT HYMN ELW 257, vs. 1-3

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:

in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

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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.

Amen.

Psalm: Psalm 126

The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for
them."**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

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.

CHILDRENS SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 239, vs. 1 & 4

Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

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, and 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,
and he will come to judge the living and 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,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace and glory, we praise you for your servant Erica Bryer who makes the good news known in Japan. Raise up, we pray, in every country, heralds of the gospel, so that the world may know the immeasurable riches of your love, and be drawn to worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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 (*the congregation's worship leaders may be named*). 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 (*survivors of recent natural disasters may be named*). 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.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 (*especially Lucy, martyr of the church*). Anoint all who mourn with the oil of glad-

ness. 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.

COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 715, vs. 1 & 2



Christ, Be Our Light

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.

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*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✝ now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.780.6408 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

St. Mark's members:

Dave and Janie Best,
The Westbrook family,
The Tuley family,
Shane Paulson,
Pete Cagle,
Jeanette Cain,
Ron & Ann Gardner,
Darrell Strampe,
Janet Schmidt,
Susan Roberts,
Phyllis Dettmer,
Madison Young

Family & friends:

Jeannine, friend of Pastor Kris,
Evie Whitehill, friend of the Andersons,
Nell, Sister of Joyce Johnson,
A.E. Krievins, Father of Janis Krievins,
Steele McLaren, friend of the Luins,
Leo Patton, Grandfather of Jason Howe,
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,
AJ, Son-in-law of the Andersons,
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,
Bruce Campbell, Brother-in-law of Joni Benz,
Steve Nelson, cousin of Louise Easterberg,
McKenna, Granddaughter of the Johnsons,
Family of Olathe Mayor, Mike Copeland,
Lena Shelton, friend of the Schmideskamps,
Crissy, cousin of Tom Bryer ,
Caroline, aunt of Nancy Bryer ,
Neil Wray, Son of Lynn and Tom,
Brian Lynn, cousin of Amy Hackler,
Jeff Needham, friend of St. Mark's,
Peggy Hinkle, Step-Mother of Kathy Hinkle,
Stephanie Herndon, friend of Kathy Hinkle,
Tim Eiter, Father of Todd Eiter,
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,
Shirley, neighbor of Mary Weeg,

Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,
Ken Liesche, Brother of 'Sam' Ham,
Don Ham, Brother of Hollie Ham,
Kelly Franks, Daughter of Hollie and 'Sam' Ham,
Aeris, Great Niece of Tom Bryer,
Sammy Schreiman, friend of Kathy Hinkle,
Catherine Gile, sister of Anne Gardner,
Karen Bannister, friend of Jane Scherrer,
"Our little friend",
Catherine Tietjen, Mary Mindrup's sister ,
Rob Boulter, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,
Joan Nelson, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,
Dean Taake, Joyce Johnson's brother,
Gibby, friend of Erica Bryer,
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,
Bob Hinkle, Kathy Hinkle's dad,
Judy Wendt, Jeannine Matthew's
sister-in-law,
Donna Poppe, friend of St. Marks,
Rosemary Williams & her sons Wayne & Wade
Beck,
Brooke Harris, friend of Gretchen Goodheart
Stewart,
Dan Ostergaard - friend of the Goodhearts,
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,
Jackson Werth, friend of the Bott/Bollinger Families,
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,
Ivan, brother of Jane Stresewski,
All People affected by natural disasters

Those in the Military:

A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thompson,
Logan Peck, nephew of Karen and Stan Thompson,
Zack Moran-Prichard, grandson of Hollie and Sam Ham