



God's love, Our service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The December Noisy Offering collection will go to the Olathe Animal Shelter, chosen by the 5th & 6th grade class.



ADVENT WREATH

Third Week of Advent

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 our 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.

Light three candles.

ADVENT WREATH HYMN ELW 240, v 1,2,3

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

gently lead them homeward.

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.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

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!

2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

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*

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*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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Greeting page 203

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

KYRIE Pg. 203

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 3rd Chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and who-

ever has food must do likewise.”¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”



¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

CHILDREN’S SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 242, vs. 1 & 4

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new
morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.

though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with
light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,**

maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the
Living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped
And glorified, who has spoken through the
prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and
Apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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. 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.

PEACE

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

And also with you

Let us share God's peace with one another.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy pg. 207

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG pg. 208

COMMUNION HYMNS ELW 488



Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,
open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."

3 Now in faith I humbly ponder

over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.

- 4 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.

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ELW 262

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 249, vs. 1 & 5

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

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:

George McElroy,
Nan Wolfe,
Pete and Linda Cagle,
Shane Paulson,
Janet Schmidt,
Susan & Bill Roberts,
Phyllis Dettmer,
Madison Young

Family & friends:

Lucille Thornton , family of the Andersons,
Andrew, friend of the Scherrers,
Family of Naomi Winkleman, friend of Mary Weeg,
Ron, Nephew of Jenny Wheeler,
Naomi Wonkleman, Mary Weeg's sil's sister,
Family of Evie Whitehill, friend of Janet Anderson,
Finch McMillan, Nephew of Deran & Maria Weeg,
Kenny Belcher, friend of Steve Benz,
Doug Vogelsberg, friend of Dale Albers and Sheryl Alderson,
Craig Downing, Father of Joni Benz,
Suzie, Aunt of Nancy Bryer,
Glenda Kirk, friend of Joyce Johnson,
Randy Borg, nephew of Joyce Johnson,
Jenny Mack, Niece of Jenny Wheeler,
Chris, Brother of Pete Cagle,
Amber Smith, friend of Pete Cagle,
Family of Kathy, cousin of Barb Nail,
Iris Howard, friend of Pete Cagle,
Steele McLaren, friend of the Luins,
Leo Patton, Grandfather of Jason Howe,
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,
Bruce Campbell, Brother-in-law of Joni Benz,
Lena Shelton, friend of the Schmideskamps,
Crissy, cousin of Tom Bryer ,
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,
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,
Katherine Gile, sister of Anne Gardner,
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,
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