



God's love, Our service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 15, 2024

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 our 3 yr through 4th grade class.

Rezound Handbell Concert: Today at 3:00pm.



Third Sunday of Advent

Greg & Linda Westbrook, Alyssa Hanes, and Lucas Niccoli

Use this blessing when lighting three candles.

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.
You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.
Bless us as this light grows,
and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.
Give us strength and patience,
trusting that you are true to your promises.
Transform the lives of all who suffer
with your wonders near at hand.
Amen.

ADVENT WREATH 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 Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
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Sacrament of Holy Baptism



Our baptismal candidate is Lucas Anthony Niccoli, son of Alyssa Hanes, grandson of Greg & Linda Westbrook and great grandson of Naydeen Tuley. Lucas' sponsors are Greg & Linda Westbrook.

INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism.

The power of sin is put to death in this holy flood, and we are raised with Jesus Christ to new life. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent out in mission for the life of the world.

(To Alyssa, Greg & Linda) Who presents this child to be baptized?

Parent and sponsors: **We do.**

(To Alyssa) As you present Lucas for baptism, you are entrusted with gifts and responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace among all people.

Do you promise to help Lucas grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response **I do.**

(To Greg & Linda) Do you promise to nurture Lucas in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response **We do.**

People of St. Mark's, do you promise to support Lucas and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

Response **We do.**

(Water is poured into the font)

RENUNCIATION OF EVIL AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you, parents and sponsors, to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Response: **In faith I turn to Christ.**

With the whole church, let us all confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through water you led your people Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you delivered us from the power of sin and death and set us free to live in you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon this water and upon *all* who *are* washed in it, that *they* may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

WASHING

Lucas, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And let the people say ... **Amen.**

INVOCATION OF THE SPIRIT

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and

sons new birth, wash them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Lucas with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge

and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence,

both now and forever.

Amen.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

(Making a cross on the forehead with oil.)

Lucas, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

(Parents and sponsors also receive the sign of the cross with oil.)

PRESENTATION OF A CANDLE

(Presenting a lighted candle.)

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

WELCOME

Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Welcome, Lucas!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 843

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word; praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;

from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

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Greeting page 98

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. 98

HYMN OF PRAISE page 101

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.

CARILLON RINGERS "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Arranged by Kevin McChesney

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.

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

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

¹⁵ The 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.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The 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
¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

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

¹⁹ I 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.

²⁰ At 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.

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

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

² Surely 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.**

⁴ And 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.**

⁶ Shout 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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION page 102

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.

⁷ John 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? ⁸ Bear 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. ⁹ Even 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.”



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

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.
- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.
- 3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,

as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.

- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
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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Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places
that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your
people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good
news. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to
protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of
destructive fires, storms, and other disasters (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and

lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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.

OFFERING/ NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY pg. 182

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. 108

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.



COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG pg. 112

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 462

Now We Join in Celebration

- 1 Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,
of your living self, our vict'ry,
- 3 Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen
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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

SENDING

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✝ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.



RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 551

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

- 1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.
- 2 We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.
- 3 We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed

and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.

- 4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.



PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.638-9331 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:

Donna & Ron Frenzl,
Donna Nichols,
Pete Cagle,
Linda Cagle,
Janet Nichols,
Chuck Vandenberg,
Susan & Bill Roberts,
George McElroy,
Janet Schmidt,

Family & friends:

Brad, son of Jim & Mary,
Liz Zybko, friend of Pam Wilson,
Jules Rudigier, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Tony Berg, son of Arlyn & Jan Berg,
El Haddad, Semaan, and Nassar families and friends in Lebanon, extended family and friends of Fetsch Family,
Marlin Weidler, friend of St. Mark's,
Family of Phyllis Dettmer,
Steve, nephew of Joni Benz,
Donna Trester, Mother of Linda Cagle,
Sandra Borg, sister of Joyce Johnson,
Peggy, cousin of Jane Scherrer,
Kerry O'Rourke, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Fran Besser, friend of Joni Benz,
Mindy Gustus, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Everett, friend of sister-in-law of Janet Anderson,
Jessica Parker, great-niece of Jane Stresewki,
Tammy Strampe, Daughter-in-law of Barbara Strampe,
Bob Bergene, friend of Clarence Linsey,
Doug & Kathy Thee, cousins of Barbara Strampe,
Sheryl Thompson, friend of Pete Cagle,
Scott Miller, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,
Harry Cagle, brother of Pete Cagle,
Janice, sister of Jenny Wheeler,
Dr. Owens, friend of Kathy Hinkle,
Mike and Susan Becker, friends of St. Mark's,
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle
Stan, friend of Pete Cagle,

Chris, brother of Pete Cagle,
Joetta Eagle & family, friends of Linda Bayer,
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,
Bill Benne, friend of Joyce and Louis Johnson,
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,
Craig Aldag, Uncle of Ali Luin,
Donna McCarthy, friend of Ginny Schwartzbeck,
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,
All People affected by natural disasters
Those in the Military:
A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thompson,