

Third Sunday in Advent



Joy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Voters Meeting re: Election of Church Officers
Today after the Worship Service
11:15am in the Fellowship Hall

*Only full members are eligible to vote
Please check-in when you enter the Fellowship Hall
(before the meeting starts)

AS WE GATHER

Some Advent wreaths have a pink candle for this Third Sunday in Advent. The festive, joyful pink candle reflects today's Readings, which begin to anticipate the unbridled joy that Jesus' birth brings. We do many joyful things during Advent. We sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, and travel far and wide to visit those we love. Yet all these joyful things point to an even greater joy—the joy that comes by the Creator of the universe, the Lord almighty, who loves you, forgives you in Jesus, and cares about you beyond human measure! "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

✘ PRELUDE ✘

OPENING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB 338, Verses 1-2



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCE

Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b–17, 20

Pastor: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

People: **The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**

Pastor: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

People: **The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;**

Pastor: He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

People: **He will exult over you with loud singing.**

Pastor: I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; 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.

People: **We worship You, O Lord!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Three Advent candles are lit.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 25:6–7

Pastor: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from You. Our wonderings have at times turned into doubts that drew us away from You.

People: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent (vs. 3)

(Sung to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, LSB 357)

Forgive us, Lord, for times when joy was lost,
And moments when we never thought to laugh,
For times when we obsess and despair
And all forget Your steadfast love and care.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
And help us live in joy that never ends.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” LSB 805

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14–20

14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 17 The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud

singing. 18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. 19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. 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 in, at the time when I gather you together; 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord
People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18-28

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter, verses 18-28

People: Glory to You, O Lord

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" 21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. 23 And blessed is the one who is not

offended by me." 24 When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 25 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. 26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" 28 I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You O Christ.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” LSB 803, Verses 1-3



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re-flect Thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di - vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

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SERMON

CREED: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✕ everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

Pastor: O Wisdom from on high, lead us by Your Spirit to rejoice in all that You have done to demonstrate Your love for us. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to rejoice in the Lord always. We pray,

People: **hear us, coming Lord.**

Pastor: O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our

leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Lord of might, help us to see in the miracles of Jesus a sign pointing forward to that Day when He will come again in great glory to restore all creation. Help us to be instruments by which our wandering world may come to see Jesus as the one who alone brings true joy into our lives. We pray,

People: Hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great

day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

People: **hear us, coming Lord.**

Pastor: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

BENEDICTION

Philippians 4:5-7; Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Hark, the Glad Sound" LSB 349, Verses 1-4



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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*He made a way in a manger
A way through the Son
Messiah the promised
Before time had begun*



*For God so loved this world
Though he knew what love would cost
He made a way in a manger
To make a way to the cross*

He Made a Way in a Manger
Candi Pearson-Shelton

For with you is the fountain of life;



in your light we see light. Psalm 36:9

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Service Times

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study 11:15 am

Advent Services

December 1, 8 and 15 at 4:00p

Christmas Eve Services

December 24 at 4:00p and 6:00p

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday (9am-2pm)

Fountain of Life Lutheran Church