



# Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ***

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 16, 2018**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



**P:** Blessed by the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us  
free, the mighty Savior who comes to  
show mercy, the Dawn from on high who  
guides us into peace.

**C: Amen.**



P: Let us come before God in confession.

*(A brief pause.)* To you, O God,

**C: we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you.**

**Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your path; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**



**P:** Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin washed away in the name of + Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your hearts! The reign of God is near.

**C: Amen.**



# OPENING HYMN

**“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”**

**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.**



**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.**



**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.**



**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.**



**P:** 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.**



# INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing.



The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his 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.

**C: Amen.**



# ***Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle***

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

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



**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.**

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



**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.**

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



# PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

**C:** 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.



# Children's Church



## **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

A reading from Zephaniah, the 3rd chapter.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 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. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:



Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 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 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 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.



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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



# A Responsive Reading From Isaiah, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**R:** 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.

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



R: 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.

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



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

**C: Amen.**



## **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

A reading from Philippians, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry 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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



# “ALLELUIA”



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.



## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

**P:** The holy gospel according to Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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? 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.



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.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”



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.” As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying,



“I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.



P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

"Where's the Joy and Good News?"



# **HYMN OF THE DAY “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”**

**Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.**



**For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.**



**Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.**

**Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.**

**For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.**



# **THE 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

P: As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.  
*(A brief silence.)* For choirs, hymn writers, musicians, and off-key singing, we give you thanks, Holy One. Fill us with your song of joy. Open us to proclaim your glory in our singing, speaking, and silence. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** For the hurting places in creation;  
for seas and lands ravaged by natural disasters;  
for communities and creatures displaced by  
floods and droughts. Grant peace through your  
presence and joy in your healing.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** For peace to ring out in our hearts and in our homes; for mercy and forgiveness to reign in every community; for war to cease and hunger to end. Give us this joy now, Holy One.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and their families; for neighbors who have no access to medical care; for those who are ill and those who mourn (*especially*). Fill them with your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** For foster families opening their homes; for grandparents raising grandchildren; for single parents struggling to make ends meet; for expectant parents who now grieve. Give strength and comfort, Holy One.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** In thanksgiving for preachers and teachers who have guided us on the way. Bring us with them to rejoice eternally in you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**



**P:** Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**



# SHARING PEACE

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

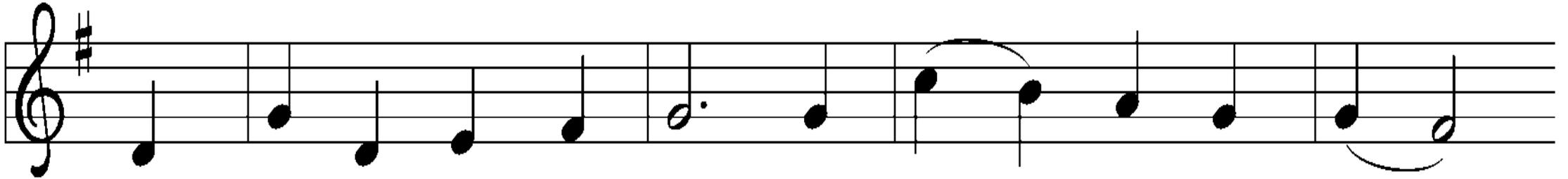
**C:** **And also with you.**



**~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~**  
***“He Made a Way in the Manger”***  
**by Vicky Beeching**



# OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.



## OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your son, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen.



## DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION



## **THE 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;  
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.**



~ **COMMUNION** ~



# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**



# BLESSING

**P:** Almighty God, Father, + Son, and  
Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C:** Amen.



# **CLOSING HYMN “Hark, the Glad Sound!”**

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



**He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.**



**He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.**



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



# DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



















































