

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Setting 4



Introduction to the Day:

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Prayer Requests

*Congregation participation in **bold print**.*

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING - The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath, that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near **Amen**.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Hymn 257 verses 1 & 4

Presentation of New Members

Following the hymn of the day, those being welcomed, representative/s of the congregation, and ministers gather at the font before the assembly.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Nancy and Jim, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation. Nancy Rasmussen has come to our congregation from Maple Park Lutheran Brethren Church in Lynwood and Jim Eling has come from Woodinville.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith as found in the Nicene Creed.

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.**

Address and Questions

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Nancy and Jim, as a sister and brother in Christ,

do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,

do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly.

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God

and proclaim the good news to all the world.

GREETING

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

ELW pg. 147

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

"Glory to God"

ELW pg. 148

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated.

WORD - God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:5-10

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg 151

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:46b-55

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Chris Peterson

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Hark, the Glad Song"

ELW Hymn 239

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition, the Worship Assistant will say, "God, in your mercy", the congregation will respond, "hear our prayer."

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray **Amen**.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please take a few moments to greet those around you as you feel comfortable, keeping in mind that not everyone is comfortable shaking hands or hugging.

MEAL - God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

ELW Hymn 679

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together,

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.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

ELW pg. 152

Preface

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW pg. 153

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 today 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Please be seated.

We believe that Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine. All those who are baptized and have received formal teaching about The Lord’s Supper are invited forward to commune. If you desire a blessing, come forward and keep hands folded together. Come forward at the direction of the usher. Pick up a clean cup from the right side of the altar. The empty cups can be placed in the tray on the left side of the altar.

COMMUNION SONG

“Lamb of God”

ELW pg. 154

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

ELW Hymn 256

“Change My Heart, O God”

ELW Hymn 801

“Wait for the Lord”

ELW Hymn 262

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING - God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Today: New Member Reception after service, Council Meeting, 11:00

Monday: “Before the Throne” Book Study, 11:00

Wednesday: “*The Journey*” Advent Study/Book Study, 12:00

Thursday: Gals Lunch Out—11:45 at Olive Garden, Guys Night Out 7:00 p.m. Abby’s Pizza

Sunday: Angel Tree Gift deadline—please have all gifts brought to the church by December 18th

The Angel Tree is once again in the Narthex. We have two families from the PCAP program. Both are families of 4 that have recently been reunited, spending their first Christmas together. There are four tags remaining on the tree. Please take a tag or two and help a family have a wonderful Christmas knowing someone cares about them.

This year’s Advent offering will be sent to the Yakima Salvation Army’s Social Ministries program. This program offers a wide range of social services to those in need. More information in the newsletter.

CLC family sends ‘Hope for the Holidays’ to immigrant families This year, the Christ Lutheran family again shared its servant heart with those far away. We sent Christmas card greetings and messages of hope to 84 families as part of “Hope for the Holidays,” a national program sponsored by the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). The cards, written in both English and Spanish, were sent to families who have been split up or remain detained together indefinitely while their asylum cases are decided by the government. Sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee, this is CLC’s fourth year participating in the “Hope for the Holidays” campaign. The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has been part of our national church (ELCA) since 1939. Thank-you to all who participated this year, with prayers for compassion and understanding for immigrant families in the coming years.

Counters for December: Jim Sebree & ?

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

“Joy to the World”

ELW Hymn 267

DISMISSAL

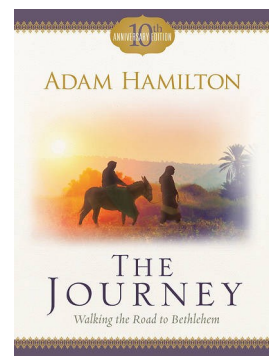
Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

In *The Journey*, Adam Hamilton travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with Jesus' crucifixion in *24 Hours that Changed the World*, Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness.

Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

The Worship and Music Committee has chosen to use the book as our 2022 Advent Service. Beginning on November 30th, please join us for the four **Wednesdays of Advent at noon** to view a short video vignette of Mr. Hamilton retracing the actual Path of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, along with the accompanying Chapter. Books are available at the office. Donations of \$13.00 for the book would be appreciated.



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Called by God to Worship, Learn, and Nurture: Sent to Serve and Tell

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www.christlutheranyakima.org Worship at 9:30 am

Deacon Kathy's Office Hours: Tuesdays—Thursdays 11:00 - 2:00 and by appointment