

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Cross!

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worship begins**

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Rev. Lyndon Sayers, Pastor

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Advent Liturgy 2022 by Nathan McDonald

John asks new disciples to bear good fruits. What good fruits are we bearing as a community?

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Gathering Song

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

– No. 242

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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.

Remembrance of Baptism

This Advent we gather, renewing our baptism. Creator, guide us in a time of waiting for Christ to return, filled by the Holy Spirit.

We keep watch, waiting for Jesus to return in the fullness of time. **Come, O Christ, renew our baptism.**

We look to the stars and fig trees, portents in the heavens.

Come, O Christ, renew our baptism.

We wait for Christ to come, in the darkness, in the beauty of night. **Come, O Christ, renew our baptism.**

We wait for Christ to come, in the rain and mist, renewing creeks and lakes. **Come, O Christ, renew our baptism.**

We long for the dominion of God to usher in justice
and love.

Come, O Christ, renew our baptism.

We who are weary long for comfort and rest.

Come, O Christ, renew our baptism.

Creator, renew our faith and lead us forth in
love. **Amen.**

Wait for the Lord – No. 262

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

Kyrie Eleison – Christe Eleison – Kyrie Eleison

**Creator have mercy – Christ have mercy –
Creator have mercy**

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah- No. 240

Vs. 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

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 ¹ be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,
and has become ¹ my salvation.

³ **With joy you ¹ will draw water
from the wells ¹ of salvation.**

Refrain: ***In your midst is the Holy One of Israel***

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

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done ^l gloriously;**

let this be known in ^l all the earth.

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

Refrain: ***In your midst is the Holy One of Israel***

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18

...Glory to you, O God
...Praise to you, O Christ

Hymn of the Day

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper – No. 901

Vs. 1 Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.

Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Vs. 2 Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.

Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.

Christ, the morning star of splendour,
gleams within a world grown dim.

Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.

Vs. 3 Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view;
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.

Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Peace Sharing

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

Offering Song

*Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain –
C. Jennings – choir*

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

We give thanks to the Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy O God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Thanksgiving Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth
as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.**

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus – No. 254

Vs. 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Vs. 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

***Creator of the Stars of Night* – No. 245**

Vs. 1 Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

Vs. 2 When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendour bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blessed mother mild.

Vs. 3 At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.

Vs. 4 Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

Vs. 5 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

Surely God Is My Salvation – No. 926

Vs. 1 Surely God is my salvation,
I will trust and shall not fear.
God the Lord is strong and mighty,
my salvation true.

Refrain: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O daughter
Zion! Great in your midst is the Lord, the Holy One!
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O daughter Zion!
Great in your midst is the Lord, the Holy One!

Vs. 2 Thus with joy you shall draw water
from salvation's wells and springs.
Sing your thanks to God Almighty
for these wondrous deeds.

Refrain: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O daughter
Zion! Great in your midst is the Lord, the Holy One!
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O daughter Zion!
Great in your midst is the Lord, the Holy One!

Vs. 3 Tell the nations of God's glory,
make this known in all the earth.
Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,
call upon God's name.

Refrain: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O daughter
Zion! Great in your midst is the Lord, the Holy One!
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O daughter Zion!
Great in your midst is the Lord, the Holy One!

Sending Song

Prepare the Royal Highway – No. 264

Vs. 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!

Vs. 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: Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

Vs. 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: Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

Vs. 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: Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

Worship Leaders and Assistants

Assisting Minister: Boston Laferté

Kantor: Nathan McDonald

Musician: Lorna Bjorklund

Choral Scholars: Abby Corpus, DJ McGrath

Livestreaming: Josh Boutin

Communion: Irene Corrie, Tarynn McKenzie

Usher: Craig Knight

Gathering Rite: Thanks to all the kids!

***You are invited to Holy Communion Worship,
Sundays, 10AM PT in-person and online.***

***For more information, please check the website
www.lutheranvictoria.ca
for the Crossroads newsletter, calendar and events.***

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