



December 12, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Called to proclaim and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are nurtured,
prepared, and sent to be the light of Christ in our world.*

First Lutheran

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Worship: Sunday at 10:00 am
Broadcast Sunday mornings, 8:00-8:30, on KAPS Radio (660 am)

L = Leader; C = Congregation

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: “*A Story for All People*” Richard Webb , “All Is Well” Michael W. Smith

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C: Amen.

L: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.
Silence for reflection and self-examination. God of all time,

**C: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.
We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.
Amen.**

L: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“*Awake!, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*” RED HYMNAL HYMN #242

ADVENT LITANY

L: Advent is a season of joy. We celebrate the coming of the Christ child with parties and gifts, special decorations and long-held traditions. We gather with family and friends for special events. We also reach out to those whose joy is diminished in this season. Today we light the third candle, the Candle of Joy, for Christ, our joy, is on his way. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L: We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes to be reshaped by God's promises. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L: We wait for the day when God will make for us a future that is no longer predicated on our fear. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L: We find a new receptivity within us that desires God's will and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with your divine illumination. Holy God, we understand that true joy will never be found in tinsel and colored lights, and even less in the excesses of this season. True joy, we believe is found in you and in you alone. Come, Lord Jesus. Bring us the gift of your joy and your life.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN "*Prepare the Royal Highway*" RED HYMNAL HYMN #264 Vs. 1, 2 & 3

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY

L Let us pray, Stir up the wills of your faithful people, ...

C 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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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.

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

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

¹⁵The 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.

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

¹⁷The 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
¹⁸as on a day of festival.

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

¹⁹I 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.

²⁰At 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.



THE PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely 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.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call ¹ on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name ¹
is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done ¹ gloriously;
let this be known in ¹ all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O ¹ royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy ¹ 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.

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

THE ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

L: The holy gospel according to Luke 3:7-18 **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

⁷John 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? ⁸Bear 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. ⁹Even 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."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers 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."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

L: THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD **C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" RED HYMNAL HYMN #246 vs. 1-4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WE SHARE THE MEAL

OFFERING/MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, you have done great things for us and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you – ourselves, our time, and our possessions – that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORDS 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.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION: RECEIVE CHRIST IN BREAD AND WINE

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

WE SEND TO SERVE

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*” RED HYMNAL HYMN #244

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “*By Your Hand You Feed Your People*” Marty Haugen

What’s Happening at F.E.L.C.

Operation Christmas Lights

Join Pastor Ryan and the Parish Activities committee for a Christmas light decorating event today at **12:30pm**, following the drive-up worship service.

Christmas Fireside sing along December 13th @ 7pm

Please join us in the front breezeway for our Christmas Sing along. This will be a night of singing Christmas songs of all types for all ages .

Council Meeting Dec 16. @6:00pm

Our last Council Meeting of 2021 will be Dec 16th at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We ask that council members from 2021 and the newly elected 2022 Council Members attend. Retiring Council Members, please remember to bring your Council notebook to pass along to the board member who will proceed you.

Annual Reports

Boards & Committees, it is time to write your annual reports and e mail them into the church office. Please submit your reports before Jan.16th for publication. Thank you!

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