

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The Third Sunday in Advent ☩ December 13, 2020 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music
Minka and Lauren Fulton, Musician Leaders

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation *ELW* = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)

**PLEASE NOTE: We will not distribute paper copies of this Worship Guide. All will be projected on the screens.
If you would like, you could print a copy and home and bring it with you,**

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate to the number in your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." So in these days of required distancing, longing to share the Lord's Supper again soon physically together at one table of the Lord, we acknowledge communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space. This will be another form of that connection. We understand no precedents are being set in these unique times.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

- ☐ Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. ☑ **Amen.**
- ☐ Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.
Silence is kept for reflection. Loving and forgiving God,
- ☑ **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**
- ☐ People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. ☑ **Amen.**

ADVENT HYMN: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

ELW Hymn 244

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**
- 2 The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**
- 4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907 Public Domain

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

LESSONS: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*New Century Version*

L Today's Lesson is from Isaiah, the sixty-first chapter

The Lord God has put his Spirit in me, because the Lord has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken, to tell the captives they are free, and to tell the prisoners they are released.

He has sent me to comfort all those who are sad ³and to help the sorrowing people of Jerusalem. I will give them a crown to replace their ashes, and the oil of gladness to replace their sorrow, and clothes of praise to replace their spirit of sadness.

⁴They will rebuild the old ruins and restore the places destroyed long ago.

They will repair the ruined cities that were destroyed for so long.

⁸"I, the Lord, love justice. I hate stealing and everything that is wrong.

I will be fair and give my people what they should have, and I will make an agreement with them that will continue forever.

⁹Everyone in all nations will know the children of my people, and their children will be known among the nations. Anyone who sees them will know that they are people the Lord has blessed."

¹⁰The Lord makes me very happy; all that I am rejoices in my God. He has covered me with clothes of salvation and wrapped me with a coat of goodness, like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding, like a bride dressed in jewels.

¹¹The earth causes plants to grow, and a garden causes the seeds planted in it to grow.

In the same way the Lord God will make goodness and praise come from all the nations.

New Century Version : *The Holy Bible, New Century Version* ®.Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *He Came Down**ELW Hymn 253*

**He came down that we might have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we might have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.**

Text: Cameroon traditional Public Domain

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according John, the first chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?"

He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"



²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,
²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."
²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

- P** The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Melissa Jacobson

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

ELW Hymn 254

- 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.
- 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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Public Domain

OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** Let us confess our baptismal faith together.
- C** 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 THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God." please respond, "your mercy is great."
 The prayers are ended with these words, "Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers
 for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." Please respond, "Amen."*

INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- 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 to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;
 You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom
 you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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.**

SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
 "The body of Christ for you" and "The blood of Christ for you."*

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

ELW Hymn 251

- 1** My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!
 You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.
 Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim—
 great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.
- 2** To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.
 With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.
 The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;
 the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the *Magnificat* Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PASTORAL BLESSING

BENEDICTION

- P** The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever. **C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand*

ELW Hymn 437

- 1** On Jordan's stormy bank I stand, and cast a wishful eye
 to Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.
- Refrain: I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land;
 oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.
- 4** When shall I reach that happy place and be forever blest?
 When shall I see my Savior's face and in God's bosom rest? Refrain

Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727-1795 Public Domain

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Altar Guild: Linda Barbour and Carol Talbott

Tech crew: Will Friedrichs, Sara Turk, David Turk, Joni Siefert

Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Kathie Manes, in memory of her husband, John..