

## Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

December 17, 2023 9:45 a.m.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship & Music

Barbara Anderson, Second Sunday Coordinator

P= Pastor C = All L = Leader

#### PRELUDE: *BABY KING*

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*see insert*

#### EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

#### OPENING SONG: *I PRAY ON CHRISTMAS*

#### ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

☒ 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.

☒ Amen.

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4

*see insert*

#### SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*see insert*

#### ↑ GOSPEL: John 1:6-8,19-27

*see insert*

SERMON Pastor Miriam

#### ↑ SONG OF THE DAY: *WHAT A GLORIOUS NIGHT*

#### ↑ OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "Merciful God" please respond, "receive our prayer."

When the prayers conclude, please respond, "Amen."

#### OFFERING

<https://coslutheran.org/give/>

We acknowledge that you may have given Online or through the mail. Thank you.



#### OFFERING SONG: *SOMEBODY TALKING ABOUT JESUS*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

☐ The Lord be with you.

☒ And also with you.

☐ Lift up your hearts.

☒ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☒ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

☐ 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

☒ 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.

## SHARING COMMUNION AT CHURCH or at home with your household

## COMMUNION SONG: *SOMEBODY TALKING ABOUT JESUS*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & BENDICTION

☐ The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

☒ Amen.

## SENDING SONG: *GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN*

## DISMISSAL

☒ Go in peace. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.

☒ Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

# THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Sunday, December 17

- ☐ Let us pray: Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.  
You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.  
Bless us as this light grows,  
and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.  
Give us strength and patience,  
trusting that you are true to your promises.  
Transform the lives of all who suffer  
with your wonders near at hand.

☑ **Amen.**

*The third candle is lit.*

## THE LESSONS

Sunday, December 17

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4

The Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the 61st chapter.

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord, the Eternal, is on me.

The Lord has appointed me for a special purpose.

He has anointed me to bring good news to the oppressed poor.

He has sent me to repair broken hearts,

And to declare to those who are held captive and bound in prison,

“Be free from your imprisonment!”

<sup>2</sup>He has sent me to announce the year of jubilee, the season of the Eternal’s favor:

for our enemies it will be a day of God’s wrath;

For those who mourn it will be a time of comfort.

<sup>3</sup>As for those who grieve over Zion,

God has sent me to give them a beautiful crown in exchange for ashes,

To anoint them with gladness instead of sorrow,

to wrap them in victory, joy, and praise instead of depression and sadness.

People will call them magnificent, like great towering trees standing for what is right.

They stand to the glory of the Eternal who planted them.

<sup>4</sup>And they will rebuild this place from its ancient ruins;

they will restore the ages-old, once-splendid structures;

They will renew Israel’s ruined cities

from the ashes and debris that laid untouched for many generations.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God**

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

The New Testament reading is from 1 Thessalonians, the 5th chapter.

<sup>16</sup>Be joyful always, <sup>17</sup>pray at all times, <sup>18</sup>be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup>Do not restrain the Holy Spirit; <sup>20</sup>do not despise inspired messages. <sup>21</sup>Put all things to the test: keep what is good <sup>22</sup>and avoid every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you will do it, because he is faithful.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

## GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-27

☒ The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>6</sup>A man named John, who was sent by God, was the first to clearly articulate the source of this Light. <sup>7</sup>This baptizer put in plain words the elusive mystery of the Divine Light so all might believe through him. Some wondered whether he might be the Light, <sup>8</sup>but John was not the Light. He merely pointed to the Light.

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<sup>19</sup>The reputation of John was growing; and many had questions, including Jewish religious leaders from Jerusalem. <sup>28</sup>So some priests and Levites approached John in Bethany just beyond the Jordan River while he was baptizing and bombarded him with questions:

**Religious Leaders:** Who are you?

**John the Baptist:** <sup>20</sup>I'm not the Anointed One, if that is what you are asking.

**Religious Leaders:** <sup>21</sup>Your words sound familiar, like a prophet's. Is that how we should address you? Are you the Prophet Elijah?

**John the Baptist:** No, I am not Elijah.

**Religious Leaders:** Are you the Prophet Moses told us would come?

**John the Baptist:** No.

**Religious Leaders:** <sup>22</sup>Then tell us who you are and what you are about because everyone is asking us, especially the Pharisees, and we must prepare an answer.

<sup>23</sup>John replied with the words of Isaiah the prophet:

**John the Baptist:** Listen! I am a voice calling out in the wilderness.

Straighten out the road for the Lord. He's on His way.

<sup>24-25</sup>Then some of those sent by the Pharisees questioned him again.

**Religious Leaders:** How can you travel the countryside baptizing people if you are not the Anointed One or Elijah or the Prophet?

**John the Baptist:** <sup>26</sup>Baptizing with water is what I do; but the One whom I speak of, whom we all await, is standing among you; and you have no idea who He is. <sup>27</sup>Though He comes after me, I am not even worthy to unlace His sandals.

☒ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.