

Brief Service of Holy Communion  
**Third Sunday in Advent – Sunday, December 12**

WORDS OF WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

-SONG-      242 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

### Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, 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 Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

#### **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

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

<sup>15</sup>The 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.

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

<sup>17</sup>The 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

<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

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

<sup>19</sup>I 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.

<sup>20</sup>At 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.

### **Psalm-reading Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you | will draw water  
from the wells | of salvation.**

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

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously;  
let this be known in | all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel.

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

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

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John 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? <sup>8</sup>Bear 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. <sup>9</sup>Even 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."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them,

“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers 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.”

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

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

The Message

-SONG- ELW 246 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!*



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we  
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age  
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don  
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
 let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
 down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
 wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
 and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!”  
 shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 one and all, to be for - giv’n;  
 and with words of love draw near.  
 while un - end - ing a - ges run!

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*response:* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

### Sharing The Peace

The Peace of Christ be always with you! **And also with you**

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Blessed are you, Creator of infinite variety....

Using words familiar to you, let us join in the prayer that Jesus taught:

### 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**

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

*We share Communion from where we are*

*Time of reflection*

*-SONG- ACS 901 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (Lexy solo)*

### Post-Communion Blessing

Let us pray:

**We give you thanks, loving God, that we have met your son Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Send us from this table to tables throughout our world to love and serve in Jesus' name. Amen**

## Blessing

### -SONG- 282 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876  
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God!**



Gloria Dei  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **PRAYER LIST**

***We hold in prayer this day...***

Pastor David,  
Stuart (friend of Pastor Dave)  
Pastor Lanny and LeeAnn Knutson,  
Gabriel (friend of Pastor Dave)  
Ed (spouse of member of the Friday Art Group)  
Jan, Karin & Joe (friends of Irene Snell)  
Signe (friend of Karen I.B.)  
Sheilagh (friend of Audrey & Merv Fitz)  
Florence (friend of Al & Marlene Herman)  
Edgar (father of Tim Lach)  
Emile (husband of artist, Freda P.)  
Barb (friend of Karen I.B.)  
Donald (brother of Kim Dorn)  
Lawrence (brother of Al Herman)  
Angie, Don (friends of Marlene Herman)  
Lil (Barb I's mom)  
Doris (Jerry's sister)  
Art, and Beth (friends of Sandra and John)  
Papa, Nana, and Leah (close friends of Jennifer Rz)  
Andrew and Cindy (Jennifer's father and his partner)  
Irene (Cathy's friend)  
Health care workers tending to the sick in this pandemic time

*In our congregation:*

Audrey F.	Jennifer R.
Matthew H.	Christa M.
Linda H.	Barb M.
Roy N.,	Alma R.
Jerry B.	Doreen Kletke
John F.	Kara T-R
Patty C. & family	Darlene W
Shirley A.	Pam R
Dorothy B.	
Anastasia M.	
Don K.	
Ilona O.	
Jenifer S.	
Lori Ebbing Treon	