



Sunday, December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & 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.

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.**

Opening Hymn: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you alright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high
that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

Love caused you incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

Rejoice, then, you sadhearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

C: 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.

L: We praise you, O God, for these lights that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

C: As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word-made-flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of hope;
Hope for the world to calm its fear, hope for the news we long to hear,
Hope in a child who will soon appear. Light one candle of hope.**

**Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of faith;
Faith that can heal a world in need, faith that can conquer hate and greed,
Faith in a child who will come to lead. Light one candle of faith.**

**Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of love;
Love that will teach the world to care, love that surrounds us everywhere,
Love in a child who will help us share. Light one candle of love.**

Special Music: Levi Linngren & Payge Lindgren

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

The spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion--to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message: Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Sermon Notes:

Hymn of the Day: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Prayers

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

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Benediction & Dismissal

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. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn: Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

Surely it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water from salvation's healing spring;
In the day of your deliverance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.

Make God's deeds known to the peoples; tell out his exalted name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works God's might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,
In your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.



PRAYERCARE Vicki Ford, Dave Danberg, Geri Swenson and the family of Andy Swenson, the family of Duane Rudquist, Caroline Greene, Nia Glynn, Doris Fors, Ann Rue, Helen Swanson, the Hackmann Family, the family of Joe Mallery, Dan Petersen, Julie Valez, the family of Margaret Dale, Marcielle Rogers, Cleo Stomberg, the family of Brian Maloney, Leo Nelson, Caren Carlson, Rose Anderson, Gail Johnson & the rest of David Clow's family, Yutaro Nakanishi, the family of Annie Lindgren, Cheryl Slattengren, the family of John Solheim, and Deb & Jerry Rhoads and family of Marilyn Burnes, Don & Darlene Mueller and family, Donna Lindgren, and Don Grover.

Intergenerational Faith Formation:

- **Children's Outdoor Pageant.** Sunday, December 13th at 11:00am. Join us for an outdoor children's pageant in the parking lot at the church. Please bring a chair if you'd like and wear a face mask! Hot Cocoa and cookies available after with a freewill offering collected to go towards bees and goats from ELCA Good Gifts!
- **Christmas Traditions Around the World.** Between Dec 16 and Dec 24, the nine-day posada is celebrated in Spanish-speaking regions. In this tradition, the Bible story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted.
- **Did you know?** Las Posadas means Inn in Spanish. 1. A Christmas tradition in Mexico; 2. The 9 days represents the 9 months Mary carried Jesus. 3. A procession takes place that symbolizes the journey made by Mary & Joseph.

Need Pastoral Care?

Call Pastor Dwight 651-829-4884

Have questions or in need of something?

Church Office: 651-465-5265

Office Hours:

Monday 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Tuesday 8:30am - 12:30pm

Thursday 8:30am - 11:30am

Email: parishc@tflutheran.org
(this email is checked daily)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Wendy Szczepanski

Craig Loen

Miriam Flysjo

Becky Hulden

Rose Anderson

Video Credits

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Toni Brekke: Organ

Natalie Landgreen: Vocals

Jason Linngren: Lector

Carli Linngren: Photography

Angie Linngren: Photography, Filming & Editing