

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024



PRELUDE

WELCOME STATEMENT

PROCESSIONAL “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” ELW 242

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Brief silence for self-examination

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ☩ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “All Is Well” by Michael W. Smith soloist Glenn Kuelczo

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” ELW 257, Verse 3

McGrath Family

(light three purple candles during the song, then pray...)

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord’s coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

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

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

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.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

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 as on a day of festival.

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

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.

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.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Isaiah 12:2-6

(Assembly reads the bold font in the Congregational Response.)

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.

**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

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.

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

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING*Philippians 4:4-7*

A reading from Philippians.

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

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*ELW Setting 8, page 188***GOSPEL***Luke 3:7-18*

The gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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? 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. 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.”

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

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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.”

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**SERMON***Rev. Phillip Potaczek***HYMN OF THE DAY***“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”**ELW 244*

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us affirm our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe **in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each prayer petition, please respond:

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

“What Feast of Love”

ELW 487

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, **you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

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.**

PREFACE

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 and join their unending hymn:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Modern Version

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Messiah”

Dakota Road

Someone's shouting from the desert

Someone’s shouting from the city

Someone's shouting from the sea

I am young, I am cold

Someone's shouting from the mountain

Someone’s shouting from the country

Someone's shouting from the valley

I am lonely, I am old (*Chorus*)

Chorus:

Someone’s shouting I am broken

Messiah, come and be our King

Someone’s shouting make me whole

Messiah, come and be our King

Someone’s shouting come and change me

Someone’s shouting save my soul (*Chorus*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL

“Where Justice Rolls Down”

Bob Stromberg

Chorus

Where justice rolls down like a mighty water
And righteousness grows like an ever-flowing stream
And mercy resounds like the waves on the ocean
Let praises rise high on the songs of the redeemed

There is a river that streams from the temple
Begins as a trickle but ends in the sea
As it grows healing it will give
Where it flows ev'rything will live (chorus)

Wade in the water and feel the strong current
Remember the stagnance of stale life before
God is here leave the past behind
In these clear waters you will find (chorus)

SENDING

Siblings in Christ, our Eucharist has ended. **Now, it must be lived.**
Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Whom Shall I Fear”

Darrell Evans

<p><u>Sunday, December 15, 2024</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Elle</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Shannon Matteson</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Shannon Matteson</i> <i>Mike Matteson</i> <i>Ann Enke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Ann Enke and Sue Williamson</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday, December 22, 2024</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Madi</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Sue Williamson</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Altar Guild: <i>Becky Glaser and Linda Scott</i> Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i></p>
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