



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

10:30 Holy Communion

This church year we'll be reading from Luke's gospel. We begin at the beginning of the gospel and we quickly find we're in for an adventure. An angel appears, an old man is given news so amazing he can't believe, and a young woman willingly accepts news that her life will be upended completely. How do we respond when God calls us out of our routines and into an adventure with an unknown end?

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comfort.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors

We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Light the Candle
(For music turn to Hymn 57 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. Light the candle as a symbol
of the Light that leads the way;
For each candle is a symbol
of the hope that's ours to-day.
As we strike the match**

**and light the wick,
come Spirit shine bright.
Grant that all may see from the darkness
Your Gift, Your Truth, Your Light.
Emmanuel, son of the Father,
Come to us now, Savior and Lord.**

2. **Light the candle as a symbol
of the Light that leads the way;
For each candle is a symbol
of the peace that's ours today.
As we strike the match
and light the wick,
come Spirit shine bright.
Grant that all may see from the darkness
Your Gift, Your Truth, Your Light.
Your Gift, Your Light.**

Text and music: Maureen Griepentrog; Copyright 1991 Treble C Music; CCLI #2982867

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† WORD †

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen

As the first candle on the wreath is lit we sing:

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel
(For music turn to Hymn 257 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Oh come, Oh come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

B: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 92 (Read responsively)

D: How good to thank you, Lord,
to praise your name, Most High,
to sing your love at dawn,
your faithfulness at dusk

**C: with sound of lyre and harp,
with music of the lute.
For your work brings delight
your deeds invite song.**

D: I marvel at what you do.
Lord, how deep your thought!

**C: Fools do not grasp this,
nor the senseless understand.**

D: Scoundrels spring up like grass,
flourish and quickly wither.

You, Lord, stand firm forever.

C: See how your enemies perish,

scattered to the winds,

D: while you give me brute strength,
pouring rich oil upon me.

**C: I have faced my enemies,
heard them plot against me.**

D: The just grow tall like palm trees,
majestic like cedars of Lebanon.

**C: They are planted in the temple courts
and flourish in God's house,**

D: green and heavy with fruit
even in old age.

**C: Proclaim that God is just,
my rock without a fault.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

E: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (1 Corinthians 1:5))

C: Alleluia. In every way you have been enriched in Jesus, in speech and knowledge of every kind. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 1:1-25

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us,²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent

Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” ²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵“This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Blessed Be the God of Israel
(For music see Hymn 250 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.**
- 2. With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.**
- 3. My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79. Text copyright 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Arr. copyright Oxford University Press

Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

**C: 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 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.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Special Music and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Creator God,

**C: 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.

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

† MEAL †

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 the Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, though 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 in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.”

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please pick up a communion glass as you come forward to the altar. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the assistant.) The pastor will pour wine into your glass. If you prefer grape juice it is prefilled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

254 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (Red Hymnal)*

272 *Lo, How a Rose (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life,

for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,

for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy,

for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us

as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn *We Will Wait*

(for music, turn to Hymn 56 in the Songbook binder)

1. **We will wait with ever watchful eyes.**
We will wait with ever serving lives.
We will wait with ever open hearts.
We will greet You.
2. **We will greet You with ever thank-ful tears.**
We will greet You with ever lessening fears.
We will greet You with ever hopeful joy.
We will welcome You.
We will welcome You! We will sing!
We will welcome You! We will sing!
3. **We will welcome You as prophesied.**
We will welcome You into our lives.
We will welcome lessons that You teach.
We will sing for You.
4. **We will sing while we wait here on earth.**

**We will sing to greet You at Your birth.
We will sing to welcome You, the gift.
We will follow You.
We will welcome You. We will sing!
We will welcome You! We will sing!**

Text and music: Julie Hennies Clark, Larry Olson, David Lee Brown; Copyright 1992 Julia Hennies Clark/Dakota Road Music; CCLI # 1941957

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Mary Zuege
Communion Assistant	Sue Kaufmann
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	Urbanic and Schuller

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 8, 2024

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	

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