

**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
*in the 167th Year of the Parish*  
December 13, 2020. 8:00 & 10:30 am  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
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**Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”**

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the  $\mp$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

**\*HYMN *Christ, Be Our Light*.....ELW 715**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**

**Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

***Refrain Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in our hearts.***

***Shine through the darkness.***

***Christ, be our light!***

***Shine in your church gathered today***

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another,  
signs of your kingdom come.**

***Refrain***

**\*KYRIE**

**P** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C** Christ have mercy upon us.

**P** Lord, have mercy upon us.

**\*LIGHTING OUR ADVENT WREATH**

**P** Behold our Lord and Savior now draws near!

**C** Come Lord Jesus!

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. 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.

**C** Amen.

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS**

*“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.*

## **THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

1 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;

2 to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

3 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.

4 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.

8For 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.  
9Their 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.  
10I 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.  
11For 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.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 126** (*Read responsively*)

1When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

**2Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

3The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

**4Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

5Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

**6Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19Do not quench the Spirit. 20Do not despise the words of prophets, 21but test everything; hold fast to what is good; 22abstain from every form of evil.

23May 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. 24The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*THE GOSPEL.....John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

19This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” 21And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” 22Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” 26John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” 28This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

## **\*THE NICENE CREED**

**P** Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith.

**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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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

Hear us O God/**Your mercy is great.**

## \*THE PEACE

## \*THE 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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You comforted your people with the promise of a 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P 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."

### **\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

**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.**

### **\*THE COMMUNION**

P Even as we watch and wait and wonder, Christ is here.  
Come, eat and drink.

**C Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*THE BLESSING

P 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.

C Amen

### \*HYMN *For All the Faithful Women*.....ELW 419

**For all the faithful women who served in days of old,  
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their victory told.  
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.**

**All praise to God the Father! All praise to Christ the Son!  
All praise to God the Spirit, who binds the church as one!  
With saints who went before us, with saints who witness still,  
we sing glad alleluias and strive to do your will.**

### \*DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

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**Flowers:** Our altar flowers are given to the glory of God...

In loving memory of my parents, Elias and Grace Lehman, Herbert Winters and son, Scott and sisters, Eva and Helen by Lois Winters Gold.

In loving memory of Helen and F.B. Troxell by Margie Levinson and her family and by Frank Troxell and his family.

**Altar Guild:**

Deb Buckman and Leah Haussmann

**Ushers:**

**8 am:** Dick Miller and Herb Poff

**10:30 am:** Matt Fortin (Captain), Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler, Sally Biornstad (side door).

**Lectors- 8 am:** Ruth Rees

**10:30 am:** Gary Weber

**Prayer List:** Liz Ruesskamp, Richard Albright, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Paul Young, Bob Shaible, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Diane Osbaugh, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Pr. Frank Showers, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Ben Hufnagel and Steve Dewar.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE**

**Worship Attendance- *Sunday, December 6***

*8 am - 18            10:30 am- 29*

**Total Offering: \$5610**

*Regular \$5590      Capital \$0      World Hunger \$0*

*Food Pantry \$0      Global Missions \$0      Misc. \$10*

*Plate \$13      Sunday School \$7*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

*Today in addition to the third Sunday of Advent we remember Lucy (Lucia), Maiden of Lights. Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.*

**Other Commemorations this week:**

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

Monday, December 14, 2020

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

**By action of our Congregational Council, after today, in-person worship services including Christmas Eve Services have been suspended until further notice. Virtual worship by way of video will continue to be offered through our web page and Facebook.**

***\*Today, December 13: Our Annual Congregational Meeting will follow both services.***

