## Third Sunday of Advent

## ~ December 11. 2022 ~ St. John’s & St. Peter’s

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness ELW pg. 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from 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: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.***

**Peace**

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

***C: And also with you.***

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath “*Waiting, Preparation, Joy, Light*”**

This is the third Sunday of Advent. We’re glad that Christmas is getting closer.

The first candle reminds us to wait. **The first candle is lit.**

The second candle reminds us to prepare. **The second candle is lit.**

As we wait and get ready, we are thankful that God promises to come and be with us. We light the third candle in joy for the promises of God. **The third candle is lit.**

From Luke 2: “Do not be afraid, for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Let us pray: Faithful God, we are glad for your promises to us. We trust that the time is coming when all people will experience comfort, wholeness and liberty. May we do our part to bring your good news of great joy to all. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn *“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”*** vs. 1, 2, 3 ELW #240

Vs. 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
 He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Vs. 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
 He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Vs. 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

 **Greeting** ELW pg. 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie** Spoken

 P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

 P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

 ***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** ELWPg 138

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God’s coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. 9No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Psalm146:5-10**

5Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**6who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever.**

7who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

**8The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.**

9The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

10**The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion throughout all generations. Hallelujah! The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.**

**SECOND READING**: **James 5:7-10**

*In anticipation of the Lord’s coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

7Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**GOSPEL**: **Matthew 11:2-11**

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God’s judgement upon the earth (Matthew 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus’ response indicates that God’s reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” 4Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

7As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ 11Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“People, Look East”***  ELW #248

Vs 1. People, look east. The time is near of the crowning

 of the year. Make your house fair as you are able,
 trim the hearth and set the table. People, look

 east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Vs 2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is

 planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
 that in course the flower may flourish. People, look

 east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Vs 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the

 bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather,
 Bright as sun and moon together. People, look

 east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Vs 4. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

 life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming
 with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look

 east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**Apostles’ Creed**  ELW pg. 105

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

 **“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world the yearns for new hope.

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify you love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink and praise you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness or loss especially

Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus, Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** ELW pg. 145

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.***

**Words of Institution**

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has 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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“Joy to the World”*** ELW #267

Vs. 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth

 receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him

 room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature

 sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Vs. 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their

 songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

 plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding

 joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Vs. 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns

 infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings

 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is

 found, far as, far as the curse is found.

Vs. 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

 nations prove the glories of his righteousness
 and wonders of his love, and wonders of his

 love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

***C: Thanks be to God!***

***TURN MIC OFF!!***

**Postlude**