



Third Sunday in Advent – December 12, 2021

WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR'S

Welcome to worship, especially our guests! We are delighted to have you with us. If you are looking for a church home, we are happy to share ours with you. If we haven't seen you in a while, it is great to see you today! May God bless your time with us richly.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word and assure me of your love. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise.

THE COMMON SERVICE, P. 15

OPENING HYMN – 7 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth, as he approaches, With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 You saints, who here in patience Your cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb you shall behold;
In triumph lay before him Your shining crowns of gold.
- 4 Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

C: Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,

we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.

You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON – *Zephaniah 3:14-17*

¹⁴Sing, Daughter Zion;

shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,

Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away your punishment,

he has turned back your enemy.

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;

never again will you fear any harm.

¹⁶On that day

they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, Zion;

do not let your hands hang limp.

¹⁷The LORD your God is with you,

the Mighty Warrior who saves.

He will take great delight in you;

in his love he will no longer rebuke you,

but will rejoice over you with singing.”

SECOND LESSON – *Philippians 4:4-7*

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY – *Matthew 11:10*

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

C: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON – *Luke 3:7-18*

⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”¹⁸And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – 14 Arise, O Christian People

1 Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light was given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.

2 Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.

3 The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—It is the Lord's delight.

4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1–3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

SERMON – What should we do?

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN - 27 O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are

1 O Jesus, Lamb of God, you are My comfort and my guiding star;
I come, a sinner, trustingly And bring my many sins with me.

2 O Lord, my sin indeed is great; I groan beneath the dreadful weight.
Be merciful to me, I pray; Take guilt and punishment away.

3 Saint John the Baptist points to you And bids me cast my sin on you,
For you have left your throne on high To suffer for the world and die.

4 Help me to change my ways, O Lord, And gladly to obey your Word.
While here I live, abide with me, Then take me home eternally.

Text: Bartholomäus Helder, 1585–1635; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

316 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

1 O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed On me thy body and thy blood.

2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart— How blest am I! How good thou art!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928.

C: Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word.

**For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – 15 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness; You are children of the day."

2 Lo, the Lamb, so long-expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n,

3 That, when next he comes with glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with his mercy And with words of love draw near.

4 Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son
With the everlasting Spirit While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 6th century, abr., alt.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

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We're happy you joined us! May God richly bless your week.

Children's Christmas Service: Light for our Darkness

Join us next Sunday, Dec. 19 during our regular worship service at 10:30 am.

Pastoral Call Our Savior's issued a divine call to Pastor Mark Jacobson. He currently serves at Grace, Glendale AZ. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he deliberates where he may best serve our Lord.

Asleep in Jesus The Lord in his love and mercy called home to heaven the soul of Pearl Williamson. A Christian funeral was held on Friday. May God comfort Wally and their family. Blessed be her memory.

2022 Offering Envelopes Pick up your envelopes today in the office link. Please do not use these envelopes until January as your number may have changed. Thank you!

This Week's Opportunities for Growing in Christ		
Today (12/12)	9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Sunday School & Bible Class Worship with Communion
Monday	7:00 PM	Coordinating Council
Tuesday	Noon	OWLS Christmas Luncheon
Wednesday	4:00 PM 6:30 PM	Catechism Small Group Bible Study
Sunday 12/19	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 3:00 PM	Sunday School & Bible Class Children's Christmas Service NLHS Christmas Concert

Memorials We are grateful for gifts given in memory of:

David Anklam from Vi Schmidt

Gordon Schubring from Rick & Karen Leopold

Jeanette Mathwich from Ellen Fitzke

Violette Clark from Vi Schmidt

November 2021 Saints Triumphant from Travis & Marie Kurth

Blessed be their memories. Thanks be to God for the love which led to these gifts.

In the Narthex

December issues of Forward in Christ, Meditations, Advent devotions, 2022 God's Creation Calendars

Snow Removal Please speak with Bill Unruh if you're willing to help. The more volunteers, the better!

MLC Job Positions Martin Luther College is now accepting applications for the positions of Accounting Clerk (Accounts Payable), Financial Wellness Trainer, Resource Development Counselor, Resource Development Manager, Women's Tennis Head Coach, Athletics Equipment Manager, and Early Childhood Learning Center Substitute Teachers.

Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/

SCRIP Christmas is fast approaching, so order your Christmas gift scrip today! We have only **ONE** more Scrip Center Order opportunity remaining before Christmas. Please make sure I have your order by email/text **by 10 am tomorrow, Dec. 13.**

NLHS will be closed Dec 22 through Jan 2. Since Christmas week will be only a 2-day school week, we will not have time for a Scrip Center order on Monday, Dec.20. However, I will fill any orders I can from our on-hand stock of normal (inventory) cards on Monday, Dec.20 & Tuesday, Dec.21.

We will resume normal operations after the holidays on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Our Stewardship of God's Gifts: December 5, 2021

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Thanksgiving</u>	<u>Advent</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Missions</u>
\$1,479.00	\$320.00	\$60.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$20.00	\$25.00
<u>Bldg Maint</u>	<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Chr Gifts/Bags</u>	<u>Christmas Family</u>	<u>School Fees</u>		
\$150.00	\$75.00	\$360.00	\$55.00	\$120.00		

Attendance: Sunday Worship – 44, online – 47 Total = 91



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