

# Third Sunday in Advent

## December 13, 2020

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Confession & Absolution

- P** Let us confess our sin to God:  
O Lord, great God, all holy, Father most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love,
- C** We are embarrassed to come before you,  
for we have rebelled against your wisdom and have gotten into trouble,  
for we have rejected your fatherly guidance and have gotten lost altogether.  
And therefore we are embarrassed.  
To you belongs righteousness, O Lord, and to us confusion of face.
- P** O Lord, great God, all holy, Father, most gracious, filled with mercy and steadfast love.
- C** Incline your ear to our troubles.  
Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you.  
Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness,  
but on the ground of your great mercy -  
on the ground of your great mercy in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
It is in his name that we pray,  
for He is our Savior and the mediator of the covenant of grace.  
Amen.
- P** Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from John 3:  
"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."
- C** Amen.

### Psalm

*Psalm 126*

- P** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.
- C** Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
- P** then they said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

**C Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!**

**P** Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!

**C He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,**

**P** shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

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

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

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

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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon Hymn #387

## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts; tune: George Frideric Handel; text and tune: Public domain

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

- <sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
<sup>4</sup>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. . . .  
<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

## Prayer

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

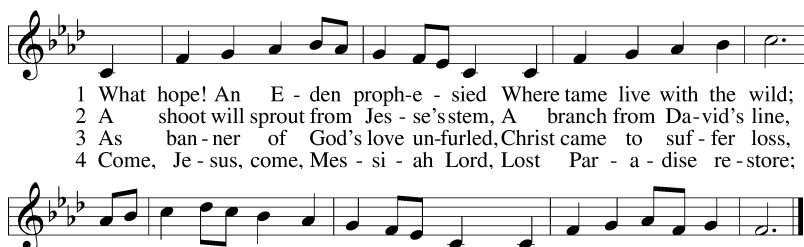
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

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.

## Holy Communion

### Distribution Hymn #342      What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;  
The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke; tune: *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813; tune: public domain, text: ©  
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# Distribution Hymn #542

# When I Behold Jesus Christ



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,  
 2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;  
 3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;  
 4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.




I won - der much at His love As He hung on the tree.  
 I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.  
 On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.  
 My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.

*Refrain*




What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

Text: Almaz Belhu (sts.1-3, ref.), Joseph Herl (st.4), trans. Jim & Aurelia Keefer; tune: Almaz Belhu; Tune and text: © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Text (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

# Announcements

## **Bible Study \***

Sunday @ 12:30 p.m. (Zoom)

\* Please text Pastor Mueller if you have not yet attended and would like a Zoom invitation link sent to your email.

**Youth Confirmation** –Today 11:30am - 12:30pm

**New Member Class** - Tonight 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

**Mid-week Advent Service** - Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend in person, this service will be available on our YouTube channel.

**2021 Offering Envelopes** – All congregation members – Your 2021 offering envelopes are available on the credenza in the narthex. Please inform Cheryl in the church office if you plan to give online and will not need envelopes. Thank you!

## **Special Voters Meeting**

We will have a special voters meeting on Sunday, December 20th, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss moving forward with the Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) micro-school. At this meeting, the congregation will decide if we wish to engage in an exploratory phase along with CCLS to determine the feasibility/possibility of opening the school for the 2021-2022 school year. Please look for the meeting agenda in the narthex as well as in your email inbox.

## **Youth Group**

### **Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Group (6th-12th Grade)**

Thank you to our amazing church family for the wonderful donations you sent for our homeless outreach! We thank God for you and this church home every time we meet. We wrapped 79 gifts for the homeless Tuesday night! A special thank you to Donna S. & Grandma and Grandpa S. for the wonderful cookies & treats!



## **Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Group (6th-12th Grade)**

Join us this Tuesday night at the church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for a special Christmas movie. Wear something comfy, bring a blanket/pillow or anything to keep you cozy. Christmas PJs strongly encouraged! Adult helpers - come join in the fun. Any questions, contact the church office.

## **Mercy Ministries**

### **Glen Carbon School**

We are collecting hats and mittens for girls and boys in need. They need 3 in each size (Small/Medium/Large) for both girls and boys for now.

These have to be new due to Covid Restrictions. Please keep in mind, this is for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. Please drop off your donations in the box in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

### **Christmas Blessings**

It's not too late to share some joy with the Glen Carbon family we are sponsoring for Christmas! All donations need to be delivered to the church or Sandy Hall today! Available items to donate can be found online through a direct link available on our website and Facebook page. For any last minute questions, please contact Sandy.



**SAINT JAMES**  
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