



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

We continue the story of Mary the mother of Jesus today. It is the story of her travels to visit her relative Elizabeth. Though we often think of Mary as being meek and mild, today's story will challenge that. Mary is bold, confident, and perhaps reckless! But she is strong in what God is doing in the world. Nothing will stop her from living in that promise.

Welcome to worship today!

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn The King Shall Come
(For music turn to Hymn 260 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.**
2. **Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.**
3. **Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death,
Despite the rage of foes.**
4. **Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes,
And we shall see his face.**
5. **The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings.**

Text: John Bownlie, Music A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony; arr. Theodore A. Beck

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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.

Gathering Dialog (John 1)

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Prayer of the Day

A: 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

† WORD †

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen

As the third 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.**

**3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

**4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

B: Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a

D: But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (2 Peter 3:8)

C: Alleluia. With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-56

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who

believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”⁴⁶ And Mary said,

P: “My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**C: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

P: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

**C: His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.**

P: He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

**C: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;**

P: he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

**C: He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,**

⁵⁵**according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

P: And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Canticle of the Turning
(For music see Hymn 723 in the Red Hymnal)

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west, shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: **My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**3. From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast;
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which hold us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *Refrain***

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat, text copyright 1990 GIA Publications Inc. Music: Star of Country Down; Irish Traditional.

† INCORPORATION OF NEW MEMBERS †

We welcome Diane Millard into the membership of St. John's!
Affirmation of Baptism service, Pg. 234 in the front of the Red Hymnal

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

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

Special Music

† PRAYER †

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.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.**

The pastor concludes the prayer:

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

C: Amen.

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**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn People, Look East
(For music see Hymn 248 in the Red Hymnal)

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.**

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 flow’r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today –
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

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.**

4. **Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev’ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today –
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

Dismissal

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

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



“Well, Pastor Lentz just unplugged our extension cord from his exterior outlet and he’s heading over with a less-than-pleased look on his face. Maybe he wasn’t sincere about helping us out with our electric bill.”

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