



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

Today our Advent journey begins. This year we will read texts from the prophet Isaiah that have something to do with defiance. This is not necessarily a mean-spirited defiance. It is a quiet defiance in the face of hopelessness. Today we read from Isaiah 11:1-10 where God promises new life to a people who thought they were going to die out.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

C: Amen.

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Everlasting God,

C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.**

Amen.

P: Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn
(For music turn to Hymn 242 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,**

**to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.**

- 2. To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving-kindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**
- 3. In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.**
- 4. Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.**

Text and music: Marty Haugen, Copyright 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† WORD †

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C: Amen

As the first 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.**

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

B: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 92 (*Read responsively*)

D: How good to thank you, Lord,
to praise your name, Most High,
to sing your love at dawn,
your faithfulness at dusk

**C: with sound of lyre and harp,
with music of the lute.
For your work brings delight
your deeds invite song.**

D: I marvel at what you do.
Lord, how deep your thought!

**C: Fools do not grasp this,
nor the senseless understand.**

D: Scoundrels spring up like grass,
flourish and quickly wither.
You, Lord, stand firm forever.

**C: See how your enemies perish,
scattered to the winds,**

D: while you give me brute strength,
pouring rich oil upon me.

**C: I have faced my enemies,
heard them plot against me.**

D: The just grow tall like palm trees,
majestic like cedars of Lebanon.

**C: They are planted in the temple courts
and flourish in God's house,**

D: green and heavy with fruit
even in old age.

**C: Proclaim that God is just,
my rock without a fault.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have

been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (1 Corinthians 1:5)

C: Alleluia. In every way you have been enriched in Jesus, in speech and knowledge of every kind. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 1:5-24

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the

presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” ²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day 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.**

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Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the virgin Mary and became truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 the Church

“Grant Me Your Sense of Timing” from *Guerillas of Grace* by Ted Loder.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

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

† MEAL †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord
For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God our provider,
**C: by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

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, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus the Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, though whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please pick up a communion glass as you come forward to the altar. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you need a gluten free wafer please tell the assistant.) The pastor will pour wine into your glass. If you prefer grape juice it is prefilled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

254 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

Generous God,

in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you
now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn *We Will Wait*

(for music, turn to Hymn 56 in the Songbook binder)

1. **We will wait with ever watchful eyes.**
We will wait with ever serving lives.
We will wait with ever open hearts.
We will greet You.

2. **We will greet You with ever thank-ful tears.**
We will greet You with ever lessening fears.
We will greet You with ever hopeful joy.
We will welcome You.
We will welcome You! We will sing!
We will welcome You! We will sing!

3. **We will welcome You as prophesied.**
We will welcome You into our lives.
We will welcome lessons that You teach.
We will sing for You.
4. **We will sing while we wait here on earth.**
We will sing to greet You at Your birth.
We will sing to welcome You, the gift.
We will follow You.
We will welcome You. We will sing!
We will welcome You! We will sing!

Text and music: Julie Hennies Clark, Larry Olson, David Lee Brown; Copyright 1992 Julia Hennies Clark/Dakota Road Music; CCLI # 1941957

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistant	Linda Flood
Counters	Nancy Shuler
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 10, 2023

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Counters	John and Linda Thomspson
Coffee Hour	

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The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
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