



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



1st Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

10:30 Service of the Word

This church year we'll be reading from Luke's gospel. We begin at the beginning of the gospel and we quickly find we're in for an adventure. An angel appears, an old man is given news so amazing he can't believe, and a young woman willingly accepts news that her life will be upended completely. How do we respond when God calls us out of our routines and into an adventure with an unknown end?

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 Light the Candle
(For music turn to Hymn 57 in the Songbook binder)

- 1. Light the candle as a symbol
of the Light that leads the way;
For each candle is a symbol
of the hope that's ours to-day.
As we strike the match
and light the wick,
come Spirit shine bright.
Grant that all may see from the darkness
Your Gift, Your Truth, Your Light.
Emmanuel, son of the Father,
Come to us now, Savior and Lord.**
- 2. Light the candle as a symbol
of the Light that leads the way;
For each candle is a symbol
of the peace that's ours today.
As we strike the match
and light the wick,
come Spirit shine bright.
Grant that all may see from the darkness
Your Gift, Your Truth, Your Light.
Your Gift, Your Light.**

Text and music: Maureen Griepentrog; Copyright 1991 Treble C Music; CCLI #2982867

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, 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: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

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 Malachi 3:1-4

B: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will

purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

E: Grace 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 1:1-25

The gospel is announced:

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

C: Glory to you O Lord.

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us,²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,⁴so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

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. She said, ²⁵“This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Blessed Be the God of Israel

(For music see Hymn 250 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.**
- 2. With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,**

in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

- 3. My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79. Text copyright 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Arr. copyright Oxford University Press

Response to the Word

E: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

E: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **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.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: **pray in the Holy Spirit.** *(Jude 20)*

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

E: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: **Everything old has passed away;**

behold, everything has become new!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

✠ 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.

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 messages of Christ's peace.

Special Music

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 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.

Dismissal

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

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



It wasn't the four services that was getting to Pastor Bean; it was the four coffee hours!

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