



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 2nd Sunday of Advent*

*December 10, 2017*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

Life is complicated and often messy. Sometimes we feel up to the tasks of life, and sometimes they overwhelm us. In the passage from the prophet Isaiah we will read today we find words we need to hear. God is in control and no one else. So when we feel up to the tasks of life we do not boast. And when we feel overrun by them we find comfort in our God.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

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

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

# † 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)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

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

A: In the Word was life,

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

A: 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 his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call us to prepare your way, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen**

*As the second 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**

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak 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.

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

<sup>4</sup>Every 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.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!”  
And I said, “What shall I cry?”  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

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

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

<sup>9</sup>Get 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!”

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

<sup>11</sup>He 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.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 37:1-16 (read responsively)

A: No need to fret over sinners  
or to envy wrongdoers.

**C: They wither like grass,  
they wilt like young plants.**

A: Trust God and do good,  
settle down and be at peace.

**C: Delight in the Lord  
who satisfies your heart.**

A: Give your life to the Lord.  
Trust God to act on your behalf,

**C: to make your integrity shine forth  
and your justice bright as noon.**

A: Be still, wait for the Lord.  
Waste no energy fretting  
about the success of evil schemers.

**C: Stop your ranting and raving,  
for anger begets nothing but harm.**

A: Wrongdoers will be exiled,  
but those who wait for God  
will possess the land.

**C: Soon the wicked shall vanish  
you will search and not find them;**

A: but the poor will own the land  
and enjoy wealth and peace.

**C: The wicked bare their teeth in rage  
as they plot against the just**

A: But God laughs at them,  
knowing their end is near.

**C: The wicked draw the sword  
and string the bow  
to kill the weak and helpless,  
to murder the law-abiding.**

A: But they will fall on their swords,  
their bows will be broken.

**C: Better to have little and be just,  
than to own much and do evil.**

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>The 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. <sup>10</sup>But 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.

<sup>11</sup>Since 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, <sup>12</sup>waiting 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? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and 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 1:26-38

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."<sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her

who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

*After the reading:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came  
(For music turn to Hymn 265 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**
2. **“For know a blessed mother thou shall be,  
all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**
3. **Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.  
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**
4. **Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:  
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!**

Text: Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924; Music” Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943 and John Wickham

#### Apostles' Creed

P: 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.**

A: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

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

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

A: 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)*

### *Confession of Sins*

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

*(A moment of silence for reflection)*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your great compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by  
your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to  
the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen**



P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen**

Peace

A: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

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.*

‡ PRAYER ‡

Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

*For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard, break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.**

**Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Thanksgiving Prayer

A: Let us pray: Savior of the nations, come.

**C: Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

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.

*After each portion of the prayers:* P: Lord in your mercy,

**C: 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

A: 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: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless 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**

**A:** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C:** **God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood and Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte	Sarah Brownlee
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Connie and Bruce Stevenson
Coffee Hour	The Brights and the Browns

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 17, 2017**

Greeters and Ushers	Phyllis and Dick Henderson
Acolyte	Mary Ehrlinger
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Nursery Care	Beth Perdan
Counters	Don Mansfield and Tim Brown
Coffee Hour	The Hortops

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