



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

10:30 Holy Communion

What drives your life? The power of love, or the love of power? Over the centuries the world is usually run by people who are driven by the love of power. God calls us to the opposite, the power of love. In today's worship we'll read from Isaiah and hear of God's plans to rule the world with love. Centuries later Jesus' mother will speak of similar things. These are gracious words for those who live by the power of love. For those who love power these same words speak of their doom.

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 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
(For music turn to Hymn 284 in the Red Hymnal)

1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime
when all the birds had fled,
that God, the Lord of all the earth,
sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain Jesus your king is born!
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria!

2. Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high: *Refrain*

3. The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory
on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. *Refrain*

4. O children of the forest free,
the angels' song is true.
The holy child of earth and heav'n
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. *Refrain*

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God;
who comes to wake us from sleep.
who leads us into the light of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: God of all time,

C: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen

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 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being 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 with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 1:46)

C: Alleluia. My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. 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."⁴⁶And 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*

Nicene Creed

A: 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

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 a sign of Christ's peace.

† MEAL †

Offering & 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

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.**

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: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. You will receive bread from the communion assistant. You may receive wine from either the common cup or in an individual glass. If you would like to receive in a glass please pick one up from the tray as you approach the altar rail. White grape juice is available in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

248 *People, Look East (Red Hymnal)*

266 *All Earth is Hopeful (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:

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: 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 Bethlehem Highway

(For music turn to Hymn 45 in the Songbook binder)

**Chorus: There is hope on Bethlehem highway
for the ones who will journey there.
And the hope is the child in a manger
bringing us love beyond compare**

**1. It's a lifeline for the needy,
It's sight to those who can't see.
It's a freedom for the faithful
in a child of prophecy. Chorus**

**2. Let the an-gels go before us.
Let the darkness become light.
Now the savior lives among us.
Now truth has come to life. Chorus**

Text and music: David Lee Brown and James Hersch; Copyright 1992 Dakota Road Music, used with permission

Dismissal

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

C: **God's work. Our hands.**

Worship assistants TODAY:

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

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 24

Greeters and Ushers	Kim and Gary Boisseau
Acolyte	Ben Deibler
Nursery Care	Katy Stimmel
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	<i>Please Sign Up!</i>

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